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### Public Meeting.

*Proceedings of the General Vestry Meeting of the Inhabitants of Calcutta, assembled at the Town Hall on the 22d September 1819, under the sanction of His Excellency the Most Noble the Governor General in Council, pursuant to a Requisition to the Sheriff, signed by Mr. R. C. Plowden and T. J. C. Plowden, Sidesmen and Members of the Select Vestry, chosen by the Inhabitants in General Vestry, on Easter Monday last.*

As a preparatory Note to our Report of this Meeting, which we have taken every step to render as accurate and faithful as possible, we desire to state the following facts:—

Conceiving that the memory of no one individual could retain the whole of what transpired at the Meeting, we requested publicly and generally through our Journal, and subsequently by written Notes addressed to the Speakers, that such Gentlemen as favored the Meeting with their sentiments on this occasion, would commit to writing, with as much accuracy as their memories would admit, the substance of what fell from them, and the terms in which it was expressed: first, that the Report of their share in the Debate might appear in the form least objectionable to themselves, and secondly, that we might not incur a subsequent charge of misconception or misrepresentation, where our own memory might fail us.

As there could be but one feeling,—that of a desire to exercise the greatest impartiality,—which could have dedicated this step; and as it was an indulgence seldom or perhaps never given to the partakers in a public Debate before, we did certainly hope that the parties would have scrupulously confined themselves to what actually fell from them, that they would, as the phrase is,—report “the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth;” and that their own memories would enable them to be more exact than the Report of any person who undertook to listen to and detail the opinions of all who spoke.

It has happened, however, that in many of the Speeches which we have received, though there has been, we hope and believe, no promeditated misrepresentation,—the memory of the Speaker has so failed him in some instances, as to cause him to omit certain particulars that did really occur, and his fancy, or whatever the peculiar faculty may be, has so served him in others as to create what it might, it is true, have been his intention to say, but which certainly was not said, as far as our recollection extends.

As the Speeches are principally furnished us in the hand writings of the Speakers,—we shall of course confine ourselves to them literally; but our love of impartiality, and our desire to serve the cause of Truth on which ever side this may be, will compel us to remark in occasional marginal notes as we go along, where the Report of the Speaker appears to run counter to our own recollection,—leaving those who were present at the Assembly to decide whether they are well-founded or not.

In such portions as are free from notes or remarks,—we wish it to be understood that we believe them to be correct according to the best of our recollection and judgement, and that we have nothing to urge to the contrary.

We cannot help adding that the patience and the labour which has been required to get through this task, has exceeded any thing that we have ever before been called upon to exercise; and we trust that this consideration will induce all who are about to exert their skill in search of errors, to temper that spirit with some regard to the imperfect means which belong to an Indian, as compared with an English press.

This Meeting was one of the most numerous and respectable of any that the memory of man recollects to have seen assembled in Calcutta. We endeavoured to note the names of those present as they entered the Hall, but were obliged to relinquish the task, owing to the numbers that crowded through every entrance soon after the appointed hour of ten o'clock. The whole number present could not be short of 400, and among them we noticed 40 or 50 of the principal Members of the Honorable Company's

Civil Service;—20 or 30 Staff and Military Officers of the King's and Company's Army;—15 or 20 of the Medical Gentlemen of the Company's Establishment;—several Officers of the Honorable Company's Marine, and of the India Country Service;—from 30 to 40 of the Mercantile Gentlemen of the City, including the heads of the first houses of business;—many of the principal Members of the Law;—and a large concourse of the most respectable of the Inhabitants of this City of Calcutta.

At a quarter past ten o'clock, the Meeting was opened by Mr. WILLIAM AUGUSTUS BREWER, the Under Sheriff, in nearly the following words:—

Gentlemen—In the absence of the High Sheriff, who is prevented by indisposition from having the honour of attending here to-day, it becomes my duty to open this Meeting, which has been called at the Requisition of Messrs. Plowden, under the sanction of Government.—The objects of the Meeting appear in that Requisition, which has been already fully and repeatedly communicated to the Public.

The High Sheriff has requested me to state his cordial wishes for a successful issue to the honorable and public-spirited exertion of Messrs. Plowden, on the occasion which has brought us together, to which good wishes I take the liberty of joining my humble voice.

I presume, that the first thing to be done, is to choose a Chairman of this Meeting.

Mr. PATTLE then moved that Commodore John Hayes be called to the Chair, which was duly seconded, and carried *nem-con.*

COMMODORE HAYES accordingly took his seat, having first briefly addressed the Assembly, expressing his high sense of the honor they had been pleased to confer on him, and the gratifying feelings excited in his breast by such a mark of favor and confidence proceeding from the most numerous Meeting ever assembled within this city, and for purposes so becoming the independent spirit of Britons, and not less truly honorable to the confiding liberality of the enlightened Government, under which it was the common happiness of himself and all who heard him, to be placed. He declared his determined resolution to prove himself worthy of the trust his fellow-citizens had been pleased to confer on him that day, by the most exact impartiality to all; and he hoped they would all see the necessity for supporting him in his attempts to procure a fair and equal hearing for all men of all parties, (*Hear, hear.*) The Chairman then briefly adverted to the purpose of their meeting together, which was, that of hearing the complaint to which two Gentlemen, regularly chosen by the Inhabitants to represent them in the Select Vestry of St. John's, had to lay before this General Assembly of their Constituents, against three of their Colleagues, whom they accused of having ejected them from office. Presuming on the consent of the Meeting, (*hear, hear.*) he therefore called on the Brothers, Messrs. Plowden, to proceed to state their Case.

Mr. R. C. PLOWDEN then rose, and addressed himself to the Meeting to the following effect:

Gentlemen—You have just heard from the Deputy Sheriff, the object of this (I am glad to find,) highly respectable Meeting. My absence from Calcutta, and the uncertainty of being able to be present at it, had previously made it necessary, that the whole duty of detailing to you all the circumstances of our case, should devolve upon my brother and colleague; but as one of the two, who have felt the necessity of convening you together, I cannot remain altogether silent, notwithstanding that I know there are many abler hands, who are prepared to espouse our cause. The personal indignities which have been offered to us, in the violent ejection of us from the office, which in your suffrages had placed us, is not a theme upon which I would propose to descant, although that were sufficient to excite the indignation of a tamer spirit than my own. Gentlemen, it is with principles, with which we have to contend; and if in the development of our conduct, it shall be found, that we have endeavoured to maintain unimpaired your rights and privileges, your approbation of our exertions will be our highest reward. The principles of non-responsibility and self-election, which

have been so pertinaciously adhered to, by the party calling themselves the Select Vestry, cannot be endured; it is as absurd in theory, as it is unprecedented in practice. Gentlemen, in the contest of this day, the cause of charity and the best feelings of human nature struggle against arbitrary usurpation of power and authority; for where shall we look to the hand that will extend its relief towards the indigent and poor, if the dispensers of its charities, however respectable the individuals themselves are, resolutely refuse to render an account of the Funds entrusted to their charge, and the appropriation of them? The result of this day's proceedings will, I trust, convince them of the utter untenability of such principles.

Gentlemen—I feel it not to be foreign to the proceedings of this day, that I should take this opportunity of noticing and of publicly repelling the various attacks that have been as publicly made upon our characters. Among the rest, it cannot be unknown to you, that we have been accused of fulminating and incalculating principles of Jacobinism and Atheism, of bringing back to your recollection the era of the Revolution. God forbid that such imputations should be at our door; and the characters we have maintained among you during a long course of years will, I trust, furnish the best refutation of such a charge; but this is not all, malevolence has not been wanting to asperse our characters by insinuations as base as they are repugnant to our feelings; it has been averred, in a tone of sarcastic and triumphant feeling, that we have been running counter to the commands of an honored and revered parent. Gentlemen, I know that honored Father better than the writer of this malignant attack; I know him, I say, better and I pledge myself to assure you, that were he this day present to witness our proceedings, he would have applauded the motives which have actuated our conduct and the principles which have dictated it.

Gentlemen—I have but one observation more to make;—circumstances have occurred since the commencement of this discussion which now render me disqualified to continue in the office in which your voice had placed me. I make mention of this circumstance in order that you may adopt such measures as may eventually be necessary for supplying my place. At the same time, should it be convenient that my name should nominally stand as one of the Sidesmen, I beg to express my readiness to afford my utmost co-operation to the ultimate designs of this Meeting.

Gentlemen—I bow with the utmost submission to the decision of this day. (applause)

Mr. TREVOR PLOWDEN followed, and spoke nearly as follows.

Gentlemen—Inhabitants of Calcutta, and Members of the General Vestry of St. John's Church—

We are met this day in pursuance of a Public Notice and Advertisement, which my Brother and myself caused to be inserted in the Newspapers, requesting the favour of your attendance in this place, that we might confer with you upon certain occurrences that have taken place in the Vestry of St. John's Church, deeply affecting the rights, as we conceive, of the Calcutta community.

Gentlemen—We were elected last Easter Monday, by a respectable body of you, many of whom I now see present, to the offices of Sidesmen and Members of the Select Vestry. We were willing, to accept the situations, from considerations of duty to our fellow Citizens, and the Public. We had actually entered on the functions of our office, but we have been prevented from doing our duty, and have been expelled from the Select Vestry by our colleagues.

Being thus forcibly precluded from discharging the trust, which our constituents were pleased to repose in us, we have felt it incumbent on us, to call you, the elective body, together; to render you a full account of the causes which have prevented us from fulfilling our duties as Vestrymen; to state to you the measures we have adopted in order to vindicate your right of election violated in our persons (*Hear, hear, hear!*); and to resign our trust into the hands which conferred it, unless you shall approve of our past conduct, and shall desire us to continue in our situations, and in your name and behalf to seek every lawful mode of redress which may be found open to us.

Gentlemen—It was our wish to have met you not in this place, nor in this form. We desired to have you formally convoked as a General Vestry, and at St. John's; we endeavoured accordingly to have you so assembled by giving notice to that effect to our colleagues, agreeably to the provisions laid down in the only Constitution for the Church administration of St. John's, which has ever been made known to the Public of Calcutta. But, our endeavours to that end failed of success; they were rudely and contemptuously left unanswered and unnoticed (*Hear, hear!*). We had therefore no other resource left to us but to request by public Advertisement, that each of you as would have attended (had the General Vestry been convoked agreeably to our desire,) would do us the favor to meet us in this place, that we might thus learn what was the general opinion, with regard to our past transactions, what the general wish in regard to our future proceedings.

Gentlemen—You are all probably aware, that every possible endeavour public and private, open and anonymous, was made by the persons opposed to us and anxious to perpetuate their discreditable assumption of power, to prevent our meeting you in this place. The history of their strenuous efforts would amuse you and would not be uninteresting, as the detail would naturally lead you to reflect on the nature of that usurpation; on the tendencies of a system which considers mainly publicity and the

honest English notions of making representatives periodically amenable to their constituents, as misfortunes and evils which are to be averted by the instrumentality of every species of intrigue, and by the application of every engine of terror and persuasion which the denunciations of man could be brought to wield. By persevering efforts of these disreputable descriptions, aided by the usual cry of Jacobinism and rebellion against the constituted authorities, our opponents at last succeeded in forcing the most liberal administration which England has ever given to India to interpose (*Hear, hear!*)

We were openly charged, in the Gazette which is the organ of Government, of flying in face of the Court of Directors' orders, by assembling without the previous sanction of the Governor General in Council, through the Sheriff; and Government were in a manner compelled, by such a charge, to step forward, only a few days before the long announced Meeting, to declare that we would comply with the forms so industriously quoted.

The insidiousness of this procedure; the contemptible nature of this "hue and cry," will be manifest to you all, as they were to ourselves; but, Gentlemen, we are free to confess, we are ready to acknowledge, that we do not well see how the Government could have avoided taking the step it did, when the common superior of us all, the Court of Directors, was brought into question. Being however, aware, that the old orders quoted, had long been considered as a dead letter in the more enlightened practice of recent times; that in fact, it had never at any time been considered to apply to other than political Meetings; that our purpose of overthrowing a domineering oligarchy and recovering your rights, would be seriously impeded both here and in England, by the insidious manoeuvres of the usurping party, to give a political and demagogical character to our open and honest views; we considered it to be our duty to put upon record a strong protest and disavowal of any such construction, in the shape of a most respectful remonstrance, which no doubt, Gentlemen, you have all read, shewing, that our purpose was not political, but special and limited in its objects, and that it, came not within the scope and intent of the Honorable Court of Directors' orders, any more than the hundreds of meetings for particular purposes which take place every day, numerous attended, and by the first personages in the country. Our representations, Gentlemen, failed in changing the view which Government thought it prudent to take, in a matter publicly asserted to compromise the authority of the Court of Directors. We did not indeed expect, that we should succeed; but, the Government did not hesitate, (as our adversaries during their short lived triumph assiduously gave out and credulously hoped it would) in granting us leave to assemble; although the daring and seditious objects so feelingly deprecated by the Old Ladies and Alarmists, (a *laugh*) who were interested in perpetuating abuses, were distinctly submitted to the wisdom of our liberal and truly impartial Government.

We are not apprised, Gentlemen, but we can pretty well guess the reasons which have stood in the way of our meeting at St. John's Vestry Room or Church, the proper place on these occasions, and the place too, it may be added, which is the joint property of Government and the Inhabitants, and not of the Select Vestry (*hear, hear, hear!*); but one room will serve our purpose as well as another. We are met at last, (*hear, hear, hear!*) and I now proceed, Gentlemen, to the business on which we have convoked you; begging you to pardon the tediousness of this preliminary address, which I thought was necessarily called for, under the extraordinary circumstances which have heretofore thrown so many pitiful and vexatious impediments in the way of our meeting together.

Gentlemen—it is highly gratifying to us to find, that our appeal has not been thought unworthy of your attention; if it is the pleasure of this assembly to enter now on the business for which we are at last met, I am ready to proceed in laying our case before you. I need scarcely entreat your patient and impartial attention to all who may address you, without reference either to their party, their opinions, or their motives; to shew any failure in this essential particular would give our busy and watchful enemies the very advantages they seek; would stamp on you, on myself, on this Meeting, those imputations of turbulence and factiousness which our wily enemies have so falsely, and as yet so vainly, tried to fasten upon all of us.

Gentlemen—at the commencement of this address, I briefly explained the objects for which we have used the freedom to call you together. The letter of the Sheriff has also shortly enumerated those objects; but a more detailed explanation of our views, and of the facts which have placed us in our present unenviable relation to you, has been published in the *Calcutta Journal*, and little, therefore remains for me to offer.

Gentlemen—we consider ourselves to stand in the position of servants, delegated by you to exercise a trust, laborious, irksome, and without remuneration, although most honorable to us, and very important with reference to the numerous poor of this great Christian community. (*hear, hear, hear!*)

In the capacity of public servants, we have accordingly deemed it respectful and proper, that you, our constituents, should be fully apprized of the motives which have impelled us to call on you, for the sacrifice of time, and those important avocations which almost every individual who now hears me, must have made, in thus attending our summons. We have for this reason therefore taken occasion to detail in the Newspapers, what we have suffered, and what we had done in our endeavours to fulfil our delegated trust, whilst at the same time, we explained what would remain for you to do in our support, if you wished not to surrender your undoubted rights, to the violence and usurpation of those equally with us, your servants, (*hear, hear!*) and who had practically disowned your authority, and had re-



volted from the power, by whom and for whose benefit alone they can be supposed to hold their existence as a public body. (*hear, hear, hear!*)

Your knowledge, Gentlemen, of our case is not confined to the facts made known to the public, in the address affixed to our Notice, convoking this Meeting. As the servants of the public, my brother and myself considered it to be our duty and our interest to make our fellow citizens, thoroughly acquainted with the whole of our proceedings from time to time, as soon as we perceived an attack was meditated on the privileges of the Inhabitants, and when every hope had failed of bringing the party, who had usurped your right of election to a sense of the wrong which they committed against you in our persons. All our attempts, Gentlemen, having been baffled by the arrogance and insulting refusal of the majority, even to answer our public letters, except by vague and evasive notes affecting the form of private address, to avoid acknowledging our official capacities, we deemed it incumbent on us to print the whole of the correspondence, with a statement of such facts as bore upon the question at issue.

It was of infinite importance, Gentlemen, to the success of our cause, and to give confidence to the friends of free discussion, that the world should see, we took no step from first to last, without having previously informed Government, of our intentions and ultimate views. (*Hear, hear.*) For this purpose, Gentlemen, we have from time to time, published the Correspondence, which has taken place with the Secretary to Government, on the Vestry Question. From the whole tenor of that Correspondence, we conceived ourselves justified in proposing to carry our Vestry case, before the Supreme Court, or if necessary by Petition to the Crown and Parliament. We have the sanction of Government, who have never expressed the slightest intimation of dissatisfaction at our proceedings. (*Hear, hear.*)

This tacit acquiescence proves at least the perfect neutrality which Government, with as much wisdom as dignity, determines to observe on these popular discussions. But, Gentlemen, if the least doubt remained in the minds of the most timid, surely they must completely be at an end, now that we are actually met under the formal leave and authority of the Governor General in Council, for the purpose of expelling intruders, who deny the authority which created their functions. That we are thus assembled, must for ever and effectually put to silence the strained plea which our antagonists have so industriously set forth, in the very teeth of Mr. Lushington's Letter of the 22d of April last, that they had the weight and influence of Government on their side. As if, Gentlemen, the liberal and enlightened Government, which now so happily presides over British India, that administration which has so nobly encouraged free discussion and unchained the press, would ever have stooped to prevent a plain municipal or parochial question, from coming before the proper Court. As if that Government, dreaded the assemblage of the Inhabitants to consider of their rights, or to petition the High Tribunals of their country. As if that Government, would condescend to identify itself with the interests of a petty self-constituted junto. I hope, Gentlemen, we shall never hear more of the pretended Select Vestry's pretended Support of Government. (*Hear, hear, hear, and loud and continued applause.*)

I presume, Gentlemen, I need not occupy the time of this Meeting in reading over the series of printed documents I hold in my hand, they are familiar probably to all of you; but it is necessary that I should put you in possession of our Case, as submitted to Counsel learned in the law. With your permission, therefore, I propose now to read that detailed Case, together with the opinions thereon, which we have obtained from our legal advisers. I solicit your particular attention to that opinion, because grounded as it necessarily is, on points so novel in India, and environed with so many technical obstacles, owing to the peculiar situation of the Church of Calcutta, my brother and myself have considered it sufficiently strong in our favour to warrant our trying the question, and we have not, therefore, scrupled to incur the charges of retaining Counsel.

(*Mr. Plowden here went through the whole of the Case at length; but as this has been fully detailed in the Calcutta Journal, of the undermentioned date, we need not here repeat it.*)

This Case continued Mr. Plowden, was submitted to the opinion of Counsel, with the following request.

Messrs. Fergusson & Compton, are requested to peruse the subjoined documents, with these introductory remarks, and to advise Messrs. Plowden on the behalf of the Inhabitants of Calcutta:—

Whether they have any and what remedy, at Law or in Equity, to compel the Ministers and persons who now act as Church Wardens and Sidesmen, to restore Messrs. Plowdens to the exercise of their offices, to which they were duly elected and in which they acted in concert with the Ministers and Church Wardens?

And if, from the circumstance of Calcutta not being a regular parish, or from any other legal difficulty, the remedies that could be obtained in England are not applicable here—then,

Whether the parties, now forcibly in possession of the Church Funds, can be called to an account by the Supreme Court, in respect of their Administration of the Charities left by will and otherwise:—

And generally to advise Messrs. Plowdens, in behalf of the Inhabitants of Calcutta, what means should be adopted to enforce the Regulations of 1787, or to obtain the benefit of them in some other form or mode.

The opinion of the learned Counsel in this case was then read; and is as follows:—

"As St. John's Church, from the circumstances stated in the foregoing Case, can scarcely be esteemed a Parish Church, so as to be subject to the laws which regulate the appointment of Parish Officers in England, we are not enabled to promise success, if an application should be made to the Supreme Court for a Writ of Mandamus, which is the usual remedy in England for the removal of public officers.—But if Messrs. Plowden are disposed to make the application, on an affidavit of the facts being made, the opinion of the Court may be obtained, or at any rate, it will be ascertained, whether there be any remedy at law in this country.—The conduct of the parties who have prevented Messrs. Plowden from acting as Sidesmen in pursuance of their election will not, we apprehend, be sanctioned by the Court, if they have any jurisdiction over the question.

In respect of the funds intrusted to the management of the Vestry; if the money has been paid to them under any decree of the Court, we conceive, that the Court would, upon motion supported by sufficient ground, require them to account for the application of the funds, and the Court might, in the course of such proceeding, possibly take cognizance of the right of the parties to the official character under which the funds are distributed by them."

R. CUTLER FERGUSSON.

HERBERT COMPTON.

Calcutta, 26th May, 1819.

You see, Gentlemen, continued Mr. Plowden, our Counsel do not promise us a victory, nor were we so unreasonable as to expect that they should. If there were no doubts of our success, it would be almost unnecessary for us to go to law at all; for the faction who have ejected us as intruders would never have dared to persist in their scandalous violence, and in that silence and secrecy so unbecoming English Gentlemen of a Protestant Church, if they had not known that these legal difficulties were in our way, and if they had not hoped that we should shrink from the trouble and expence of trying the question at law or in equity. They counted, however, more securely upon another obstacle. They thought we should meet with no support from our constituents and fellow citizens (*hear, hear;*); they decided the notion, that English Gentlemen could preserve English principles or English spirit under an Indian sun (*hear, hear;*); they hoped to verify the assertions of servile and vulgar minds, that an Anglo-Indian community could testify nothing but apathy and selfish indifference on public questions. But, Gentlemen, the present most respectable and numerous Meeting is a striking proof how little those calumniators knew of the true tone and spirit of this society (*hear, hear, hear;*); and the event we trust will shew them and all our countrymen, both in India and in Britain, that Englishmen do not lose the feelings and courage of their mother country and original stock by transplantation, like the animals and vegetables of our northern climates, which languish and degenerate by exposure to the consuming warmth of a tropical sun (*hear, hear, hear, and long continued applause.*)

Mr. WYNCH next offered himself to the Assembly, and addressed them nearly as follows:

Gentlemen—Among the wise and celebrated laws enacted by the Athenian Legislator of antiquity, and which have justly established his title to immortality, was one eminently conducive to the advancement of the public weal, and admirably calculated to foster a spirit of patriotism: the law I allude to, was that which obliged the mind of every citizen of Athens to take part in public concerns: it declared those, who in public dissensions and differences espoused neither party, but continued to act with a blameable neutrality, enemies to the state, and as such, condemned their persons to imprisonment, and their estates to confiscation. Were a similar enactment extant in our community, I apprehend that the enforcement of the penalties it denounced against neutrality, would not be found necessary on the present occasion. I found my opinion in this respect, on the very keen and lively interest which the question we have met this day to discuss, appears to have excited in our Settlement, and on the interesting discussions on both sides of the question with which our Journals have teemed for many months past; it has already had every advantage derivable from publicity by the press; it remains then only to afford it the further advantage of publicity of discussion.

I pretend not to any ability to throw new or additional light on the subject; if it be asked then, why I stand forward to arrest the attention of this Assembly? I answer, that in so doing, I merely exercise a right possessed by me in common with every one whom I now address, and who conceives that he is entitled to vote on the question at issue. For myself, I am of opinion, that the Sidesmen (at whose instance we have been convoked) and through them the Public, have, by the measures adopted by those calling themselves the Select Vestry, sustained a wrong; in other words, to use the language of the day, I am of the popular party: and long, long, with Englishmen, may that party be found most popular, which has for its aim, the redemption of the franchise of the many, from the usurpation of the few. (*Hear, hear.*) The adverse party has had and still has its advocates. Let them come forward and try their strength, and we'll try ours. (*Hear, hear.*)

It must be gratifying to every one, without reference to the side he may espouse, to behold so numerous and respectable an assembly as the present, more especially after the insidious attempts made to invest the Meeting with a complexion different from what really belonged to it, and to attribute to it, objects foreign to those which it professed to have in view;

fortunately however, those attempts proved abortive. Shafts so puny and mis-directed, have fallen far, far short of the mark at which they were thrown; and even had they been sent home, must have been repelled by the *Ægis* which Calcutta can raise in its defence, on which are emblazoned, and in characters too legible to be mistaken: loyalty, patriotism, liberality, and charity. (*Hear, hear.*) This is not my bare assertion, nor is it boast, nor is it flattery. Long before I quitted the shores of England, I had read the loyal and gratulatory effusions of the British inhabitants of Calcutta, on the occasion of the miraculous escape of our aged and beloved Sovereign from the hand of the assassin. I had read the patriotic speeches, and seen, what was much better, computed in figures the amount of the patriotic, pecuniary, and eagerly tendered offerings of the inhabitants of our city, in aid of the arduous, at that time doubtful, since successful struggle, maintained by England against the overspreading dominion of revolutionary France, headed by imperial talent. (*Hear, hear.*) Within my own experience and knowledge, this Hall has been most numerous and respectably filled, whether the object has been to promote under proper guidance, the diffusion of Christian knowledge; to disseminate the advantages of education; to provide an asylum for the diseased, most sorely visited by the hand of God; to extend the arm of relief to the widows and orphans of the brave who had perished; or to alleviate the distresses of the wounded in defence of their country's glory. I last year beheld this Hall crowded to excess, when the object was to entwine our humble, but sincerely offered wreath, around the distinguished brows of living merit. This year, and but lately, I beheld it, if not numerously, at least respectably attended, when the purpose was to do honor to the ashes of the illustrious dead: and I this day see it most numerous and most respectably filled, when our object is to discuss a question, which, viewed in its narrowest and merely local light, cannot fail to be interesting to us, as inhabitants of this city; more so, to us as Englishmen, since it rests on principles analogous to those, the preservation of which has eminently contributed to raise our native country, to that proud pinnacle of pre-eminence she possesses in Arts and in Arms; which have contributed to the power and stability of the British empire, to the prolonged duration of our invaluable laws and glorious constitution;—principles alike to be revered by every Briton, whether he finds himself in the arctic regions or the torrid zone. (*Loud applause.*)

Gentlemen—In my opinion, the differences in point between the ejected Sidesmen and the Select Vestry ought to be discussed exclusively on their merits, and without any reference or allusion to the correspondence, which has been entered into on this subject with the officers of Government. I do not however expect that all here will agree with me in this opinion, but all I am sure must agree with me in thinking, that the differences in question will be best discussed, without any mention of the individuals, or any stress on individual respectability of character, however great, in opposition to recognised and established general principles. (*Hear, hear.*)

Gentlemen—The first point at issue is "Whether the gentlemen who now officiate as Vestrymen and Sidesmen of St. John's Church, were justified in expelling from the office of Sidesmen, two Gentlemen, elected by a majority of Inhabitants, who attended the last Easter Meeting?" In order to determine this, it appears to me we must refer to the only Constitution which St. John's Church appears to possess, viz. the Regulation enacted in Select Vestry in June 1787, publicly promulgated in July of the same year. In my mind, comparing small things with great, this is to us what Magna Charta is to England—save that I imagine less difficulty was found by our predecessors, in the benign Governor General who presided in that Vestry becoming a party to our Charter, than our ancestors the barons experienced in obtaining their's at Runnymede, from the weak and tyrannical John. This Regulation of 1787 has never been superseded: its provisions have never been rescinded or repealed by any act equally formal or promulgated with the same publicity as itself. It stands therefore *statu quo*, and with reference to it, and to it alone, I think the differences in point should be determined. If allowed to be of any validity and authority in the year 1787, the same validity, and authority should not, and cannot, be denied it in the years 1818 or 1819. (*Hear, hear.*)

Unfortunately, we have been less vigilant of the rights recognized in our Charter, and less jealous of encroachment on those rights, than our forefathers in respect to theirs. Anfringements, however, on the Great Charter of England did take place even in the earlier periods of our English History; partly owing to the supineness of the descendants of those to whom it was originally granted; partly in consequence of the grasp at power by the sovereigns who succeeded the grantor. The most hardy and notable infringer of Magna Charta was our Henry III. On one occasion in his reign, a stand was made against encroachment; the occasion was this:—It is rather in point I think.—Disputes had long existed between the Civil and Ecclesiastical Courts, more especially with regard to the legitimacy or illegitimacy, not of power, but of children. On this point the municipal and canon laws were at variance. When any dispute of inheritance arose, it had been usual for the civil courts to issue writs to the spiritual, to enquire into the legitimacy of the person. The Bishop always returned an answer agreeable to the canon law, though contrary to the municipal. For this reason, the civil courts changed the terms of their writs, and instead of requiring the spiritual courts to make enquiries concerning the legitimacy of the person, and to report on the law as well as the fact, they only propounded thenceforward the simple question of fact: "Whether he were born before or after wedlock." The prelates complained of this practice to the parliament assembled at Merton in the twentieth year of the beforementioned King's reign, and desired that the municipal law might be rendered conformable to the canon. What was the memorable reply they received from the nobles of our land? *Nolumus leges Angliæ mutare.* "We will not change the laws of England." (*hear, hear.*)

Now, Gentlemen, *mutatis mutandis*, supposing ourselves nobles, barons, &c. which I regret exceedingly those on our side (including myself) are not; and supposing the ministers and chaplains of St. John's Church, prelates, that is bishops and arch-bishops, which I am sure they are most heartily sorry they are not; I propose we adopt that reply, and answer, "We will not change the laws of the Calcutta Vestry established in 1787" (*hear, hear, and loud laughing.*)

Gentlemen—I have heard it asserted by some of the adverse party, that our Regulation of 1787 is a mere set of rules framed for present observance; (if the word former were substituted for present it would be more like the fact) and that it has not the binding formalities of law. What they mean by the binding formalities of law, I confess I do not exactly understand; unless it be meant possibly, that our Charter is unemblazoned with the impression of a large seal, that it is destitute of a certain quantum of red wax, and has not the usual appendage of a bit of tangling green ferret, and that such-like formalities are absolutely essential to the effectiveness of a Regulation, wise in its several provisions, and altogether admirably adapted to the particular circumstances of the community, for whose guidance and benefit it may have been framed. If our Charter is wanting in such-like formalities, let it remain so; but it happens to possess essentials much better suited to our purpose; it contains ample provision for the right of the Inhabitants of Calcutta to elect their Churchwardens and two Sidesmen; it contains ample provision for the due responsibility of those to whom the custody and judicious distribution of extensive Public Charitable Funds is entrusted, in virtue of the offices they hold under that Charter. (*hear, hear.*)

I have heard it advanced too, by some in favour of the adverse party, that our Regulation will not be upheld in a Court of Justice, that it is a mere Bye Law, and that the Select Vestry were obliged to eject the Sidesmen in order to retain possession of their own seats. (*Laughing.*) Gentlemen—I really feel it necessary to apologize to you for reciting even such an absurd assertion as the last. Whether our Regulation will be upheld by a Court of Justice in a strictly legal sense, remains to be tried. Perhaps it may, perhaps otherwise; as to its being a Bye Law, Bye Laws are just as much in force as Acts of Parliament among those for whom they are enacted, until superseded by other Bye Laws, or repealed by authority as competent as that which framed the original enactment. The last assertion is so ludicrous, that I hardly know what to say by way of reply. The adverse party gain an entrance into office by our Bye Law as they call it, it is their passport into power—and when firmly seated therein, they use that power, or rather abuse it, by ejecting their colleagues in office by the same authority, and coolly tell us "your Regulation is a mere Bye Law; we are in possession; you never will get redress in a Court of Justice." Oh monstrous! Really, Gentlemen, it appears to me as if I were to insinuate myself by a letter of introduction into the house of one of the Select Vestry, and after having domiciled myself therein pretty firmly, were to take the first good opportunity of forcibly ejecting the rightful possessor of the tenement, to shut the door of the habitation upon him, and coolly looking out from the window say "My friend you do appear rather an injured man; indeed if you ask my sincere opinion I think you are; but I was obliged to turn you out in order to retain possession, you see I am in possession: I am afraid you can't obtain redress!" (*hear, hear, and continued laughing.*)

Again, I have heard it said by those of the adverse side to our's, Calcutta is not a Parish, we are not Parishioners, and the Churchwardens and Sidesmen are not so in the strict sense of the terms—Granted—But if Calcutta is not a parish, it is a place; if we are not parishioners, still we are inhabitants, and if the Churchwarden and Sidesmen are not so in the literal sense of the terms, they are so, as far as the offices will apply to our anomalous and particular circumstances. These difficulties were candidly recited in the preamble of our Regulation of 1787; accordingly we find rules were selected from Burn's Justice, adapted to the situation of things, and Rule 1 provided for the Inhabitants (not Parishioners) attending Meetings publicly called, for the purpose of choosing Churchwardens. Rule 17 directs that Sidesmen are to be elected or chosen to assist the Churchwardens. Rule 4, that the Churchwardens are to continue in office only until new Churchwardens shall be chosen. The Regulation throughout is excellent, the only fault is, it has not been observed. The Inhabitants have occasionally neglected to avail themselves of the right of election it recognizes, and hence arose the abuse of old Vestries continuing in office long after the period for which they had been chosen, or the circumstance, if such a solecism in language is admissible or absurdity in practice conceivable, of old Vestries re-electing themselves as new:—

"resolv'd on Scripture grounds to go,  
"Put off the old man to put on the new."

But even then, old Vestries were re-elected because there were no other Inhabitants present: and even then I presume the individuals must have re-elected each other: on the same principle that two persons proceed, wishing to make themselves known to a third equally a stranger to both of them. "If you'll introduce me, I'll introduce you." (*Laughing and hear, hear.*) For how a man can create himself *de novo* in any capacity, either natural or artificial, appears to me utterly and wholly incomprehensible. It seems to me as credible and as easily conceivable as that one dead, should grant unto himself a new lease of life, thereby uniting in one and the same person and at one and the same moment the defunct Grantor and the living Grantee. Oh! it out-Herod's Herod, it beats Frankenstein or the Modern Prometheus hollow, for the extent of his art was exhausted in creating a similar. (*Loud and continued laughing.*)



At length, however, a voice was heard crying "Sleep no more!" and as the voice was tolerably loud, we rubbed our eyes at first, and have opened them at last. (*hear, hear.*) With the former unsuccessful attempts to subvert a system founded on such evident abuse, or existing on such manifest absurdity, Gentlemen, you are already acquainted; likewise with the success which attended the proceeding of last Easter Monday.

To the free exercise of an undoubted right, never formally relinquished, far less abrogated, what do the adverse party oppose? Custom (or in the Hindoostanee language, *Dastoor*) but custom happens, fortunately for us, unfortunately for them, to be of two sorts, reasonable and unreasonable, legal and illegal. That neither of the customs I have alluded to, are, reasonable, is clear. That they are not legal, is also true.

What says the law? When a custom is proved (mark, Gentlemen, proved) to exist, the next inquiry is, into the legality of it, for if it is not a good custom, it ought not to be used "*Malus usus abolendus est*" is an established maxim of law. Now the adverse party may ask, with Shylock "Is that the law?" (*Hear, hear, and laughing.*) Yes it is, and moreover, custom to be of any force or avail, must have been uninterrupted, and "used so long that the memory of man runneth not to the contrary." But the memory of my right hand friend (Mr. McClintock) ran directly to the contrary. When specially appealed to, as one of long experience in local Vestry matters, and on further reference to records, they ran directly contrary to the continuity or non-interruption of these customs, and established the accuracy of my friend's memory. So that we see the customs have not a leg to stand on; they are null and void, for they are not consonant to reason: ergo, bad, radically bad, and supposing them for argument's sake, the very best customs in their way, which they are not; but decidedly the very worst imaginable, they have neither usage nor continuity to uphold them for an instant. (*Hear, hear, hear.*)

Gentlemen—I maintain that the Charter or Regulation of 1787 never having been superseded or rescinded, or repealed, is still valid for all the purposes it contemplated, that the election of the (now ejected) Sidesmen on Easter Monday having been in conformity with the provisions of that Regulation never superseded, rescinded or repealed, was and is, a due election; that the ejectment of the (then elected) Sidesmen by those denominating themselves the Select Vestry, was and is, wrongful and unauthorized. (*Hear, hear.*)

As to the ejectment, I know of no parallel to it, in the annals of our History. I beg pardon, one has occurred to my memory, and as the adverse party may be flattered by the assimilation rather than otherwise, I will on that account, instance the parallel which has struck me. It is the abrupt and memorable dissolution of the famous Parliament by the Usurper Oliver Cromwell.—Enraged at the obstinacy of that Parliament, Cromwell determined to dissolve them, for which purpose he hastened to the house, with three hundred soldiers, whom he stationed in the lobby and elsewhere. Having first addressed his friend St. John, he told him he had come to do what grieved him sorely, and what he had besought the Lord not to impose on him; but, he added, I must for the glory of God and the good of the nation. He then took his seat in the house, heard the debates, and apparently took part in the deliberations. Suddenly, however, starting up as if under the influence of inspiration, and stamping with his foot, a signal for his soldiers to enter. "For shame," said he to the members, "get you gone, and give place to honest men, to those who will more faithfully discharge their trust. You are no longer a Parliament, I tell you, you are no longer a Parliament. The Lord hath, done with you: The Lord hath chosen other instruments for his work."

Considering who two of the ejectors were in the case under discussion, and the "Local" from whence the ejected were thrust, it is to be hoped the dispossession was not so forcible as to amount to a breach of the peace: This indeed must be looked upon as pretty certain; else the first indication of the ejectment might have been in the Supreme Court, in its criminal jurisdiction; I know not what the Supreme Court may decide in its civil jurisdiction, if the question of this ejectment or removal be brought before it: or what the Authorities in England may say to it; but I guess (to use an American phrase) an such a circumstance had occurred under the "ancien regime" in France, in the days when Burke's "cheap defence of nations, and unbought grace of life" were in vogue in that polished nation, a French court of politeness would at least have held such treatment "contrary to *bienveillance*."—But I think, to the Select Vestry, we may with justice say, *Oh Tempora! Oh Mores!* The last, Gentlemen, you may translate manners or customs, as you like best (*hear, hear, and laughing.*)

Gentlemen,—Take the question if you please on the score of expediency. Is what was expedient in the year 1787, unexpedient in the year 1819? If so, why and wherefore?

If the Regulation of 1787, be a nullity, a dead letter, mere waste paper, where, in the name of Heaven, is the authority by which the Select Vestry exist and continue to act in defiance of the public voice? (*hear, hear.*) Let them produce it: I know of none. What are the ostensible means of their existence as a Select Vestry? Did they drop from the skies, cut and dried as such? or were they born so? not puny infant Gemini, but full grown, stout, hearty Triumviri? (*Hear, hear, and loud and continued laughing.*)

Gentlemen, I have trespassed so long on your time, (*hear, hear.*) that I must be brief on the second question at issue, which is the right asserted by the Public to scrutinize the accounts of the Select Vestry—the denial of that right by the Select Vestry to the Public. Whatever light the Regula-

tion of 1787 may be regarded in, whether as a trust deed simply, or what not, the right of the Public to look into the accounts of the Trustees of their cash is incontrovertible. Here again our Regulation of 1787 (or their Bye Law) contains wise and salutary provisions. Rule 13 directs, that an annual statement of accounts is to be furnished in the Gazette for the purpose of public inspection, in other words public satisfaction. How comes it that for a protracted period, the observance of this salutary rule has been discontinued? Let the adverse party explain why and wherefore? Yet, what would be said, if the Registrar of the Supreme Court took it into his head, for some reason or other, with the validity of which he might be satisfied, to discontinue the publication in the Gazette, of schedules of property and funds in his hands, receipts and disbursements, and accounts of administrations to intestate estates? and yet he is an officer immediately of the Supreme Court, liable to the control and vigilance of that Court, composed of members, eminent for their legal erudition, of unquestionable integrity, vigilant from the nature of their offices, as guardians of the public rights, and inclined both by habit and by profession to acute investigation? Yet this, even this is not sufficient to satisfy the Public; therefore do we see Annual Statements of Accounts and Funds in his hands, published by the Registrar.

What should we say, Gentlemen, as individuals, of our Agents, if, instead of separately handing to us our accounts current on the 31st of April of each year, or as soon after as possible, they were instead, in the month of September, the latter end of it, to inform us by a printed Circular, that they had nailed up our accounts, together with others, on their outer or inner doors, and that we might come and look at them if we pleased. (*Hear, hear and loud laughing.*)

Gentlemen—It is really idle for me to take up your time in descanting on the absolute necessity of checks and controls over men in office, more especially over Trustees of large Public Funds, and those Funds charitable. Those who tell us, "Mr. so, and so is a very good and respectable man, and where can the money be better than in his hands, if half so well," would do rightly, before they oppose respectability of individual character to the general fallibility of human nature, I say, they would act more wisely if they studied themselves first, and mankind next. They would then see, that the desire of power is unceasing in the human breast; and that power in all hands is liable to abuse. They would then see sufficient in the nature of humanity itself, the strongest and most cogent reasons for the establishment and strict observance of checks over all in office, whether arrayed in a little brief authority, or invested with the insignia and fasces of the highest official situation. In ascribing motives, or in drawing inferences, if we wish to ascribe motives, with correctness, or to infer otherwise than fallaciously, we must do both the one and the other argumentatively and presumptively from public and acknowledged facts. We cannot distinguish between this, that, and the other set of men. Man must be judged of, by what man has been, not what he may be. (*Hear, hear.*)

Gentlemen,—Another Article of our Regulation of 1787, (16 I believe) directs that the New Churchwardens are to bring their actions at Common Law against the Old Churchwardens, for wasting the goods of the Church. Now, this salutary provision has been virtually rendered nugatory, whenever either of the customs I have before alluded to, obtained. Incredible and absurd as the thing seems, we have been told of a Churchwarden re-electing himself; but I never yet heard of a self re-elected Churchwarden instituting a suit against himself for the recovery of a balance not immediately forthcoming. I do not mean to say, that balances have ever been found not forthcoming; in truth I, like many others, know nothing whatever of the accounts of the Vestry, excepting that they have not been given to the Public, after the form and manner of the statute provided, *id est* published in the Gazette annually; and I have not found time, since they have been nailed up in the portico, to go and look at them: all that I assert therefore is, that I have not heard of the institution of suits by Churchwardens against themselves. Indeed, considering how very anomalous the institution, how embarrassing the trial and procedure, how perplexing the pleadings, and how delicate and even distressing the decision would prove, perhaps it is as well to be avoided if possible. The best trial of such curious cases would be a court of conscience, where the plaintiff might occasionally be non-suited, or the defendant for variety's sake sometimes suffer judgment to go by default. (*Laughing.*)

Gentlemen, the Sidesmen have in my opinion, in addition to their ejectment, suffered a further grievance in being denied access to the records of their own office; but this indeed, might have been expected, as a sequel to the first wrong: Cromwell, says the Historian (from where I left off last) having previously commanded the soldiers to clear the House "ordered the door to be locked, and putting the key into his pocket, retired to his lodgings in Whitehall." Gentlemen, you may make the application of the case.

The Sidesmen then, who have been ejected from their seats, to which they were duly elected, I think entitled to the support of the Inhabitants of the City of Calcutta in the endeavours they may make (under the opinion of Counsel or in pursuance of such resolutions as the Assembly may come to, before it dissolves) to obtain restitution of those seats, and to compel a regular publication and disclosure of accounts. (*Long continued applause.*)

This speech of Mr. Wynch was delivered with a degree of animation and humour, of which no written account can convey an adequate notion, and was frequently interrupted by the peals of applause and of laughter occasioned by its witty and felicitous application of grave historical facts to the proceedings of the majority in the Select Vestry. The Speaker sat down amid loud acclamations.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK rose, he said without any preparation, but in consequence of some allusions, by the Messrs. Plowdens and Mr. Wynch, to transactions in which he was much concerned. He thought it might be necessary to inform the Meeting, that he did not speak as a Vestryman, for he had not acted as such for upwards of five years past, and therefore the seat which he at present occupied in the Vestry pew of the Cathedral was not held by him as one of that body, but was given to him, on his return from England in 1818, for past services, until they could give him a suitable seat elsewhere, when a vacancy takes place. But perhaps the Opposition will say, it was a bribe to induce him not to tell of all the good pickings enjoyed by the Select Vestry. Nor did he know until yesterday, when he saw it in the publication called "Vestriana," that he had been named to the office of a Sidesman, further than that he had been asked on Easter Monday last, if he would act, but which he then declined.

Mr. McClintock warmly censured the conduct of the Editor of the Calcutta Journal for publishing in his Paper of that morning, several observations which he contended, were not grounded on facts, and thereby tending to poison or warp to bad purposes the general feeling of the public mind, but which he had no doubt he could with the assistance of the Vestry gentlemen, explain satisfactorily to all who really wished to learn the true state of the Vestry concerns. He said it was asserted, that the Vestry proceedings and accounts had been withheld, but he defied any man to say, that they actually had been so, for every information was offered by the Rev. Mr. Corrie, the Rev. Mr. Parson and others, to all who expressed a wish to gain a knowledge of the different funds, under the management of the Select Vestry. And as to the Vestry accounts, which were insinuated to have been newly made out, it did not follow that they were newly manufactured because they were on new paper, for to his knowledge the Bank Books which contain all the debits and credits, from the commencement of the Charitable Fund, are still in use. The first book was by the Hindostan Bank, and the account being afterwards removed into the Government or Bank of Bengal, the same Cash Account is still in use, and may be seen by any person, therefore the general debits and credits could in no way be falsified.

Mr. McClintock begged to take that opportunity of avowing, that he was the person who first recommended that the publication of the Annual Statement of Accounts, in the Government Gazette, should be discontinued because the printing cost what would pension several poor people, and in lieu of which, the Annual Statement was hung up at the Western entrance of the Church, for one month after Christmas in every year, and was afterwards hung up in the Vestry Room for the remainder of the year. This he believed was well known to all who frequented the Cathedral, and particularly to those who usually entered at the Western Portico.

Mr. McClintock said he never heard of any attack having been made, in print or otherwise, against the Messrs. Plowdens, (as stated by Mr. C. Plowden,) in regard to abuse of their characters, or otherwise injurious to them, for he believed no men stood higher in general estimation, but he contended that every abuse possible had been attempted to be thrown on the Gentlemen denominated the Select Vestry, and the most unjust and corrupt motives were assigned to all their proceedings, which was decidedly contrary to the truth.

Mr. McClintock spoke of some Legacies which had been left to the Charitable Fund, (General Martin's, Mr. Barretto's, Mr. Weston's, &c.) as alluded to, in a late publication, the interest of which only is at the disposal of the Vestry, but observed that no Legacy had ever been left by Colonel Kirkpatrick, although there was a monument erected to him in the Cathedral, for that monument was permitted to be erected there by the Vestry, at the particular request of the Colonel's friends, for the established fee of Rs. 800, but which sum never was paid, owing to the death of Major Sheppey Greene then one of the Church Wardens.

Mr. McClintock concluded, by again assuring the public, that the annual statement of accounts had not been withheld, except in regard to printing, for the reason stated, for every information was offered to all who felt inclined to ask it. But he had no doubt, in consequence of the interest lately excited in parish business, that the Select Vestry will at the usual period of Christmas, be most happy to meet the wishes of the concerned, by publishing their accounts as formerly, and he had no doubt but all would be fully satisfied of their correctness, and of the purity of the Select Vestry.

(Thus far Mr. McClintock's written account extends and with the omission of some harsh and unwarrantable epithets, as applied to ourselves, it is we believe in substance correct. Our recollection is sufficiently fresh to retain those expressions, and in the report, which we had written, before Mr. McClintock's reached the Office, we find the following paragraphs following the introductory remarks of the Speaker, for the accuracy of which we pledge ourselves. They are as follows:—)

Mr. McClintock here suddenly changed the subject of his discourse, and begged to bring to the notice of the Meeting, what he conceived to be a shameful and scandalous publication in the Calcutta Journal of this morning (Wednesday) as tending to give an undue bias to the public mind, and exclaimed "I hope Mr. Buckingham, the Editor of that Journal, is here to answer me." (Great impatience was here manifested, and loud cries of Question, accompanied with marks of general dissatisfaction.)

Mr. McClintock appearing to have ended what he intended saying, and to look round for a reply,

Mr. BUCKINGHAM presented himself to the Meeting, and addressing the Chairman, apologized for thus interrupting the progress of the business under discussion; but trusted to the indulgence of all who heard him for his justification, in not remaining silent, when called on by name to answer to the accusations which the gentleman opposite (Mr. McClintock) had thought proper to make against him. He conceived the mention of the Calcutta Journal, or of its Editor, to be perfectly irrelevant at that peculiar moment, and in no degree connected with what Mr. McClintock had been decanting on, namely, the story of Dr. Ward, Major Greene, and Col. Kirkpatrick, and the tablet that was put up in the Church, all of which it was difficult to see the bearing of, on the question at issue and actually before the Meeting. Mr. McClintock having chosen to vary his topics, should, however, on the point which concerned the last (the aspersion of the Journal) be briefly answered.

He had called the publication of that morning "shameful" and "scandalous." If these terms applied to the facts which it brought to light, he had no hesitation in saying, with this gentleman, that they were indeed fully and deservedly entitled to those epithets (*loud applause*); if the expressions were meant to apply to the publication itself, as being unfounded in truth, he (Mr. Buckingham) defied Mr. McClintock and all mankind to prove, that there was a single fact there stated, whether regarding the progressive diminution of the funds, as a consequence of ill-judged parsimony and a general want of confidence, or the water mark of the paper on the statement brought to the Office of the Journal, nailed on a board, provided with a string, and professed to be the account that had been lying in the Vestry Room for public inspection, which had been obtained officially, and through the medium of the Vestry Clerk himself, little suspecting probably how forcibly those facts would strike the public mind. "If" said Mr. Buckingham, "these are asserted to be false, I am prepared to prove them true, and I again here defy Mr. McClintock, in the face of this assembly, to prove them otherwise." (*Loud cheering from all sides.*)

Mr. McClintock replied, he had no doubt he could prove them to be so, if he had time, but it was not in his power at that particular moment. (*A voice here exclaimed, No man should denounce another in public without the proofs of guilt being in his hands, and ready to be immediately produced.*) (*Cries of certainly, certainly, and great applause.*)

Mr. ROBERT CAMPBELL then stepped forward with the Journal in his hand, and begged to be permitted to point out several portions of the publication of that day, which had given him great offence. (*Cries of Question. Question.—You are offended, because you are one of the parties criminated, a Member of the Old Vestry! Laughter and applause.*)

Mr. Buckingham intreated that the business of the Meeting might not be interrupted on his account. He conceived all this perfectly irrelevant to the question at issue. If any citation of the facts mentioned in the Journal had been given, it would then have been in order to question their accuracy; if any quotation had been made of opinions there expressed, it would have been equally in order to have shewn their futility; but neither of those had been done, and he begged therefore, that the business of the Meeting might not be impeded out of a delicate regard to his honour and his truth which had thus been personally impeached. He was ready to defend them both, by any appeal that might be preferred, but this was neither the time nor place for such a contest; and when he again assured the Assembly, that the facts he had stated were undeniable, that the opinions to which they had led, were honest and sincere, he knew that there were many who would give him credit for a conduct so consonant to that which had hitherto at least marked his public labours. In again defying his accusers to invalidate a single fact, for which he had pledged himself, or to fix on his writings, the stigma of shameful and scandalous, he felt firm in the consciousness of his own integrity, and needed no other aid. (*Loud and continued cheers.*)

Captain LOCKETT now rose and said, the talents of his friend immediately opposite (Mr. Wynch) were calculated to shed lustre upon any subject. He had heard of a sublime meditation upon a broomstick, but had no idea before, that a subject of Parish business could be rendered both sublime and beautiful. He would not however, venture to follow him through the wide expanse of fancy and imagination, in which he had soared, but confine himself strictly and literally to matters of fact. That, he considered the fair way of considering the merits of the question, which was this day submitted to the consideration of the Inhabitants of Calcutta.

The Messrs. Plowden it was alleged had been violently and unlawfully ejected from their Offices, as Sidesmen of St. John's Church, by certain of their Colleagues, now acting under the denomination of the Select Vestry, and having

\* A fact has lately come to our knowledge, with regard to the liberal conduct of Mr. McClintock, and the interest he took in the affairs of St. John's Church, which we think it our duty to state, as the best return we can make for his aspersion of our labours, as being directed to poison the public mind, by shameful and scandalous publications. It is this:—When Mr. McClintock was in England, in the year 1817, he sent out as a present to St. John's Church, the chandelier and shades that now ornament the Cathedral, to the number of nearly 400, of different descriptions, at an expence of upwards of £1000 sterling. Such an act of liberality ought to be generally known; and we are surprised, that if Mr. McClintock's modesty had kept the secret so long, the Select Vestry should not have taken public notice of it. A Vote of Thanks was the least tribute which could have been paid to so distinguished an act; but Mr. McClintock enjoys, no doubt, that which all men who consult their hearts must know and feel to be of infinitely more value, the agreeable recollections which spring from the performance of virtuous and generous actions.—*Editor of the Calcutta Journal.*



in vain endeavoured to obtain redress, by applications to the Government, who had declined any authoritative interference in their case, they were induced to make their appeal to the Inhabitants of Calcutta, whom they considered as their proper constituents.

This appeared to be the subject matter of complaint, and it certainly bore upon the face of it something requiring explanation. He (Captain Lockett) was absent from Calcutta, when this transaction alluded to, took place, and had no means of informing himself on the subject, but through the Public Papers, but his respect for several of the individuals concerned, made him anxious to ascertain on his return, the exact state of the case, and the grounds upon which, the body recognized as a Select Vestry, had endeavoured to justify their proceedings.

He had read, he said with attention, all that had appeared in the Public Papers, both for and against, the transaction alluded to. He had conversed also with many well informed people on the subject. He had access to the records in the Vestry Room, and inspected the documents relative to the Funds, and he had personal communication with the Church Wardens themselves, in order to satisfy himself with respect to the several points at issue, and the result was that he was satisfied, and that he had reason to believe every Gentleman present would be satisfied also, when he was made acquainted with the true state of the case, without any colouring from party spirit, or party feeling.

Gentlemen, said Captain Lockett, I did not come to this Meeting, as an advocate for the conduct of the Select Vestry, nor as an opponent to the Gentlemen who complain of having been unlawfully ejected from their offices as Sidesmen. I came to state my sentiments upon the matters at issue, between the parties, without any reference to the feelings of either. I have the good fortune to be personally acquainted with both, and I take this opportunity to state, that I entertain the highest respect for the character of every individual concerned.

Gentlemen, the chief point at issue is this: have or have not, the body under the denomination of the Select Vestry, the privilege of re-electing themselves, or of supplying vacancies which may occur, without reference to the Inhabitants of Calcutta? The Select Vestry conceive they have the privilege. The Messrs. Plowden deny it. The Select Vestry consider the Government to be their proper and sole authority till a law upon the subject shall exist. The Messrs. Plowden on the contrary consider the sole authority to lie in the Inhabitant Electors of Calcutta, whom they call their constituents, and they consider the Regulations passed in June 1787 as a law, binding and obligatory.

Gentlemen—Law is defined to be a rule of conduct prescribed by the supreme power in a state, and it is consequently essentially necessary to a law, that it be made by the supreme power. But the regulations referred to, by the Messrs. Plowden, and which my friend opposite likens to Magna Charta (comparing as he says small things with great) were not passed by the supreme power—that is, by the Governor General in Council, but by the Governor General in Vestry, and that too in a Select Vestry. It does not even appear, that the regulations were submitted for approval, or adopted at the ensuing Easter meeting. In fact they have never been adopted, nor at all attended to, even in the time of Lord Cornwallis himself.

I repeat, therefore, that the regulations of 1787, (the great Magna Charta of your Church constitution,) contain nothing but the private rules or ordinances of a private Society, and that they possess no legal or binding power whatever. By-laws they cannot be, for by-laws are private statutes binding upon a corporation. There is no corporation in Calcutta.

And yet Gentlemen, you have been told, that Church Wardens in Calcutta, derive existence as a body entirely from the public. This doctrine has been published also in the Calcutta Journal, and it appears to have some advocates; but I deny the doctrine in toto, and defy any Gentleman present to produce one article from law or history in support of it. Church Wardens for conservation of the goods of the Parish (I speak of Church Wardens in England) form a lay corporation, by which it acquires privileges and disabilities, but such corporations can only be made with the king's consent, either impliedly or expressly given. Has any patent or Charter reached us for that purpose? No. Have we acquired it by prescription? No. The people of Calcutta then, assuredly possess no such prerogative. They can neither create nor disfranchise.

Besides, Church Wardens in England are obliged to take an oath, and it is not until they are sworn, that they become incorporated by law. The same rule is applicable to Sidesmen. Now it is notorious, that no oath has ever been administered in Calcutta, either to Church Wardens, or Sidesmen, although we know, that the prescribed oath is laid down in the regulations of 1807. It is obvious therefore, that the Messrs. Plowden, cannot be considered, in any legal sense as Sidesmen of the Vestry.

[Mr. T. Plowden, here observed, that the Church Wardens were in the same predicament.]

It is true, replied Captain Lockett, that the Church Wardens in this respect are in the same predicament with the Sidesmen, but neither do they consider themselves by law as properly described under that specification. They have however been recognized by government as such, and in that "admitted capacity," continue under government, to exercise the duties of their office.

Gentlemen, it is expressly declared in the preamble to the regulations of 1787, that Calcutta is not a parish, though in a parish, and consequently there are no legal powers to levy Church rates in it, or to compel the performance of some of the functions properly belonging to the office of Church Wardens. The persons therefore acting as Church Wardens in Calcutta, cannot be considered by the law as properly described under that specification, though (as the regulation goes on to declare) "they must be considered to act with the consent of the inhabitants for whose advantage and good they perform the duty."

It is evident from the concluding words of the paragraph just quoted, that it was the intention of the Select Vestry, that the inhabitants of Calcutta should be called on to vote at the Annual Meeting, and they were called on to do so; but what was the consequence of the call? Why, that not one man for a period of twenty-five successive years ever attended!

\* Our recollection does not confirm this;—as we do not remember it until after Capt. Lockett had done speaking, when the objection here anticipated was urged by Mr. Young, of which we shall report hereafter.

Captain Lockett continued. I have had recourse to authentic sources of information, and am prepared to substantiate the facts if necessary. (Mr. McClintock then rose and said he could answer for the accuracy of Captain Lockett's statements for upwards of fifteen years, during which he had been connected with Vestry affairs.) What were the Gentlemen, (continued Captain Lockett) who acted in the capacity of the Select Vestry, to do on such occasions, but re-elect themselves or fill up vacancies that might occur, by soliciting privately other Gentlemen to officiate? This was precisely the case with respect to Mr. Cruttenden, and the other lay Gentlemen of the Vestry. The Reverend Mr. Ward called upon him (Mr. Cruttenden) and solicited as a personal favour his becoming a Sidesman, and the same form was observed with respect to his Colleagues, and indeed it could only be from such motives, that any man would consent to take upon himself a most disagreeable office in every point of view, Gentlemen, these annual convocations frequent, contained not one elector, and the Select Vestry were compelled to fill up vacancies as well as they could. This defect is provided for at home, by making it imperative on Parishioners to serve or pay a fine.

But, Gentlemen, admitting that a rule for the Annual Meeting of the Inhabitants should be enforced, who may I ask shall have a right to vote in the Vestry? The Messrs. Plowden have told you, that they conceive "the privilege of voting belongs to the European Inhabitants of Calcutta lawfully residing here, and who pay for Pews and Church dues, viz. Fees for marriages, Baptisms and Burials, and they conceive that this privilege for voting is not at all affected, although Calcutta is declared not to be a Parish." But this Gentlemen, is directly contrary to the common law of England, as applicable to Parishes, and as laid down in Burn's Justice, from which the regulations of 1787 were copied almost verbatim. It is there declared, that every Parishioner who paid the Church rates, and no other, had a right to vote, and those who paid no Church rates, had no vote in affairs relating to it. As to Church dues, they were in fact no dues at all. The Chaplain of the week attends every Sunday, after morning service to baptize all children that may be presented:—All Funerals carried to the Grave on men's shoulders are free, and no fee is ever exacted for marriages. The fees laid down for certain occasions and suspended in the Vestry Room are prescribed by the Government, and not by the Vestry. Another proof (if proof were wanting) that the Government is the immediate head of the Church. But Gentlemen, we have heard of the domination of the Select Vestry, as a little oligarchy, or aristocracy, and yet by this new rule of the rights of election, upwards of two-thirds of the respectable British Inhabitants of Calcutta would be excluded from all concerns in the General Vestry. Is this the reform sought for, founded upon the principles of the rights of man, liberty and equality? There are 67 Pews that pay rent in St. John's, and 142 pew-holders, and the average number of the congregation may be reckoned at 450.—At the Easter and Christian festivals there are from 1000 to 1100, who attend at Church, and who contribute their mite to the charity fund. Shall the commonalty as such be denied a vote? Shall all those who sit in the gallery, or who cannot procure particular seats below, be denied the privilege of voting also? Shall the prohibition in short be issued against all the inhabitants of Calcutta, but 142 pew-holders? (Here a general cry of, the Mission Church and all who contribute to the funds are included.)

But I had almost forgot certain other qualifications, which will render a man eligible to vote at the Vestry.—I mean marriage and death. Either marriage or death, Gentlemen, will put you in the way of regaining your franchise!—but remember, you must not only die, but contrive to get buried also, for without this last favour from the clerk of the Vestry, you may as well not die at all. It is certain at all events, you will have no vote till the funeral charges are paid, and in this pitiable capacity of an unqualified ghost, you will have no opportunity of serving your friends at the next Easter Election. (Loud cries of—Is it the dead who pay their funeral charges, or the living?)

But Gentlemen you have heard that the Messrs. Plowden have been violently and unlawfully ejected from their offices as Sidesmen of St. John's: a very serious charge truly, and well deserving investigation. With regard however to the alleged violence, I trust I shall be able to explain it to your satisfaction, and as to the unlawfulness of the transaction itself, that is the very point at issue; the point which has led to so much unpleasant controversy, and which has induced both parties to persevere in a line of conduct, which they consider justifiable on public principles—whatever therefore may have been insinuated against the motives and principles of the Gentlemen concerned, I regard as utterly contemptible, and I am sure that every Gentleman present will agree with me when I publicly declare, that there are not in India individuals of purer principles, of sounder integrity, or of more upright and honorable feelings than the Gentlemen opposed to each other in this unfortunate contest. (Hear, hear, from all sides.)

Gentlemen—I will endeavour to explain to you the origin of this affair, and I will do so in as few words as possible.—In consequence of some misunderstanding that had taken place in a preceding year, between the senior Chaplain (now absent,) and some of the Gentlemen of the Vestry, on a point not at all connected with the one that has given rise to the present controversy, but which led to a good deal of discussion, and I believe correspondence, a reference was made to the Vestry records, and the regulations of the Select Vestry (termed the Church constitution of 1787) were discovered. This was a discovery of no small importance to the senior Chaplain. He found it contained a rule enjoining the Annual election of Church Wardens and Sidesmen which however had seldom or never been attended to. This was immediately laid hold of. He entered a protest against the proceedings of the Select Vestry, the whole of which he considered illegal, in consequence of their having re-elected themselves. This protest he forwarded to Government, with a letter explanatory of his views on the subject, and the Select Vestry in their defence submitted a counter-statement: The Government after due deliberation communicated their sentiments on the subject in a letter addressed to the Select Vestry, dated the 8th of January, 1819, two paragraphs of which Captain Lockett said, he would take the liberty to read, as they would tend clearly to shew the sentiments of the Supreme Government on the subject. The extract of the letter alluded to, was this. "On a question so intimately connected with Ecclesiastical Affairs, the Government had been naturally anxious to receive the sentiments of the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop, and the Governor General in Council, being then in possession of his Lordship's reply, and of the best information procurable on the subject, from

† The Clerk of the Vestry is also an Undertaker.

other authentic sources, he (the Secretary) was directed to communicate to the Select Vestry, the observations of His Excellency in Council, on those branches of the discussion which appeared to require particular notice."

"From the information and precedents which have been laid before Government, His Lordship in Council collects that the management of the concerns of St. John's Church, such as are generally transacted by Vestries in England, descended from the original proprietors of the Church, to the body, which is now denominated the Select Vestry." The 9th and 10th paragraphs, Gentlemen, have already been read to you, and they go clearly to show that in a case like the present, which is acknowledged to be anomalous and embarrassed, "the Governor General in Council, cannot under present circumstances suggest a more regular arrangement than that the privilege of election continue as heretofore, in the remaining members of the body itself."

Now, Gentlemen, at the last Easter Meeting, when the Messrs. Plowden were chosen sidesmen of the Vestry for the ensuing year, this Letter was produced. (I believe by the Chairman) and the 9th and 10th paragraphs pointed out, as declaratory of the will of Government respecting the future elections of a Select Vestry. The Chairman was of opinion, that the will of Government was clearly set forth in the paragraphs alluded to, namely, that the privilege of election should continue in the remaining members of the Select Vestry, and this opinion was seconded by the Reverend Mr. Parsons. The sense of the Meeting however, appeared adverse to the construction, and the Messrs. Plowden were elected Sidesmen. Mr. Trant however, who was present on this occasion, dissented from the opinion of the majority, and entered a protest against the election, on the grounds that an erroneous interpretation had been given to the passage in question.

Three days afterwards, the Select Vestry met to transact business, and the discussion on the legality of the late election of the Sidesmen was again renewed.

One of the Select Vestry present proposed to send up a copy of Mr. Trant's protest to Government, and await the decision. Another and a milder method was suggested, which was merely to submit a copy of the proceedings at the last Easter Meeting, and if Government started no objection to the mode of election there adopted, the Select Vestry would of course offer none. This proposition I understand was not agreed to, by the Messrs. Plowden, who proposed, as the shortest method to depute one of the Gentlemen then present, to wait upon Mr. Secretary Lushington, for the purpose already stated. The Reverend Mr. Corrie having waited on Mr. Lushington, returned, and informed them, that he (Mr. Lushington) was clearly of opinion, that the intention of Government in paragraph 10, was to place the election with the members of the Select Vestry for the time being. Under this expression of the will of Government (which the Messrs. Plowden did not agree to, on the plea that it was an "extra official verbal opinion,") the Select Vestry voted the proceedings of the Monday preceding, illegal, and acquainted the Gentlemen who had been chosen Sidesmen, on the preceding day, they were no longer a part of the Vestry.

This, Gentlemen, is a brief statement of the whole transaction and I appeal to you whether the epithets of violent, and unlawful, can with any propriety, be applied to the conduct of the Gentlemen composing the Select Vestry on the occasion? Violence there appears to have been none, and where I ask you is the illegality? The Select Vestry conformed to the will of Government, as publicly expressed in a letter from their Secretary. The meaning of the letter though questioned at first by certain Gentlemen, at the General Meeting, was afterwards clearly ascertained, first, verbally, by a reference to the Secretary who drafted it, and subsequently by another from the Government, dated the 22d of April last, in reply to a communication, made by the Messrs. Plowden, on the same subject. If the Select Vestry then considered themselves acting in an admitted capacity, under the express sanction of Government, (and it is most certain that they did so consider themselves.) It was not only their right, but their duty to have acted as they did. They had been recognized by Government, through a long series of years, as a Select Vestry. They had become Trustees as such, for several public charities, and the Governor General in Council declared publicly, that he deemed it expedient to allow that body (the Select Vestry) to remain on its present footing, until the authorities in England, should judge proper to interpose.

Gentlemen, with this series of irrefragable facts before you, what are you to conclude? That the Messrs. Plowden were ejected from their offices, violently and unlawfully? Surely not? Will you not advert to the reference proposed by the Messrs. Plowden themselves, to ascertain the will of government? Will you not acknowledge, that the result of that reference clearly tended to establish the point at issue between them and the Select Vestry? If you do not Gentlemen, then you must consider the facts of the case as nothing, and the allegations as every thing, and the Gentlemen of the Select Vestry will be condemned by you on mere assumptions.

But there is another point, Gentlemen, that seems not to have been adverted to, in this struggle (as it has been called) for popular rights. St. John's Church being now a Cathedral, is necessarily extra-parochial, and can have nothing to do with Churchwardens or Sidesmen. Its concerns should be managed by a spiritual corporation, consisting of a Dean and Chapter, to assist the Bishop in all affairs of religion as well as in his temporal concerns; and any popular interference under such circumstances, must be considered as an invasion of the Bishop's rights. I do not, however, pretend to say, that the Bishop is at present prepared to demand those rights; but such must be the case whenever St. John's shall be formally recognized as a Cathedral. A new Church may indeed be erected for that purpose, but what I mean to say is this, that as long as the Episcopal seat is held in St. John's, neither Churchwardens nor Sidesmen can be elected for it by the Inhabitants of Calcutta.

On the subject of printing and publishing the Vestry accounts, I believe very little need be said, although it appears to be a very favorite topic with several of the Gentlemen opposite. Surely if the Funds, when printing stopped, went on progressively improving from 40,000 to 90,000 Rupees, there was no particular inducement to throw away 500 Rupees annually on that head; and so far from its being a duty incumbent on the Churchwardens to print, I suspect there are a great many who would think it a very unjustifiable waste of money collected expressly for the poor, and received as every body knows, by pice and even cowries. But had the Gentlemen, who expressed such great anxiety for the safety of the Funds and Charities, forgotten that the Select Vestry was constituted by their own favorite Charter of 1787, was composed of the Governor General and Members of Council, and

Chaplains of the Presidency, and that they were in fact the auditors of the accounts. Was there no safety from their inspection and guardianship? Besides, it is known that the Government can, and does call for, and inspect the Funds of the Vestry accounts, from time to time. An extract from the Select Vestry's letter, of the 14th inst. will explain how the whole of the accounts are produced for inspection.

"The book exhibiting the detail statements of every specific appropriation from General Martin's Bequest, has been sent monthly with the receipt to the Master in Equity, signed by a Clerical and Lay Member of the Vestry, and the Registrar of the Supreme Court; that a report is made to the Court of Directors for the noble contribution of Government, and that an abstract of Receipts and Disbursements is annually nailed up in the Church Porch, during a month at Christmas, and in the Vestry Room during the remainder of the year."

Gentlemen, the Select Vestry, as you know, tendered for gratuitous insertion in any of the Newspapers, a Schedule exhibiting the several Proceedings and Disbursements, from 1811 to 1818 inclusive, and in order to afford the minutest information relating to the accounts, the Clerk was ordered on the 14th to attend the Vestry Room, from 10 to 12 every week day, and exhibit the original books. And what, Gentlemen, do you think was the result of this notification? (Here Captain Lockett read a letter from Mr. Cruttenden, one of the Churchwardens, addressed to Mr. Llewellyn, the Vestry Clerk, desiring him to mention all or any of those who attended to inspect the accounts since the 14th, in consequence of the notice given. Mr. Llewellyn's reply was: "No one attended to inspect the accounts.") Not one of all those, said Captain Lockett, who appeared so anxious for the safety of the Charity Funds, would take the trouble to inspect them. But, "Charity," Gentlemen, "thinketh no evil," and, therefore, I will draw no inferences; but, the fact is, the Churchwardens are invulnerable in the conscientious expenditure of the Funds, and the more their conduct is enquired into, the higher they will be found to stand in the estimation of all good men.

(From the note which we made on a former part of Captain Lockett's speech where we conceived Mr. Young's remarks to have been prematurely anticipated, we are compelled in justice to say, that the form in which we have here given it, as a conversation following the speech, is that which we believe to be the most accurate; and the memories of several are clear on this point.)

Mr. YOUNG rose, as soon as Captain Lockett had sat down, and begged permission to put one question to his honorable friend who had just spoken. It was this, "Since you deny that the inhabitants of Calcutta have any right of voting at the Elections of their Church Wardens, pray what is the meaning and intention of their being called together on that day, from the pulpit or desk, after Divine Service? does not the calling them together to exercise a right, acknowledge that right to exist?"

Captain Lockett replied, "I will answer that question immediately. The meaning of it is this, that they have been called for twenty-five years, but have never attended."

Mr. Young said, "My friend is not so bad a logician as to imagine that this is really an answer to my question."

Captain Lockett replied, "I have nothing more to offer," and sat down.

(Thus far from our own recollection. Mr. Young however has committed to writing the following, as his recollection of what fell from him after Captain Lockett had sat down.)

Mr. YOUNG said that he felt it incumbent on him to protest against the indecency and invidiousness of the colouring given to the conduct of the party, who opposed the Select Vestry, as if they were setting themselves up in contumacious opposition to Government. Such a course of argument, if it deserved the name, tended to give a most erroneous and unfair notion of the proceeding and disposition of the Meeting as well as the nature of the contest; but luckily to all such arguments there was an irresistible answer, as we are met here by the permission of our beneficent and liberal Government, (loud applause) for the avowed and permitted—yes, permitted object (Hear! hear!) of discussing those very questions the mere agitation of which, was to be considered as a new sedition against the State, (Hear! hear!)

His Hon. friend over the way (Captain Lockett) had assured them, that he was perfectly impartial and had no bias, nor wish to favor either side; in proof of which he had come provided with a whole host of calculations, documents, notes and correspondence such as ordinary men were not allowed to see. (Hear! hear! and laughter.) As a further proof of his boasted impartiality, his Hon. friend had favored them with a long and eloquent speech advocating and defending every proceeding of every Vestry, past and present, since 1787, (laughter.) But all excellent as that defence might be, he was compelled to notice one unhappy stumbling block, of which, and the irresistible inferences to be drawn from it, not all the ingenuity and subtlety of his Hon. friend—no, nor of any man breathing, could escape.

If it was so clear as had been explained to them, that there never was a General Vestry or a right of election in the inhabitants to choose the Select Vestry—that the Charter of 1787 was a dead letter, and had never in fact been recognized at all, he requested his Hon. friend to explain, which no doubt he easily could, to the Meeting, what was the meaning of an unhappy little formula in Easter week, still in use, and which had been in use ever since 1787, by which the inhabitants were summoned from the Pulpit or Reading desk to elect the Annual Church Officers? (Hear! hear! hear!)

He would sit down to give his Hon. friend an opportunity of explaining, as no doubt he easily could, the meaning of this little formula, of which he would only further remark that it was either a vain and impious and profane ceremonial, or a proof that the Vestry were the usurpers which the Sidesmen declared them to be (Hear! hear!)

Captain Lockett not having risen, Mr. R. CAMPBELL followed, declaring that he could explain every thing. (Hear! and laughter.) He denied, that a General Vestry had ever been summoned to meet on Easter Mondays, until Padre Shepherd, two years ago, had taken upon him to send a very extraordinary letter to the Clerk, enclosing a notice to that effect, which he directed him to read after divine service, the following Sunday. The notices which the Clerk had been accustomed to read on Easter Mondays were always for a Meeting of the Select Vestry. (Not! no! from every quarter.) He would maintain that the summons was to the Select Vestry, until Padre Shepherd's time.



Mr. Young.—“Who ordered it this year, Mr. Shepherd is gone home?”  
(*Hear! hear!*)

Mr. Campbell.—“The Select Vestry, I suppose.” (*laughter*)

Mr. Young.—“The Select Vestry then sanctioned the Select Vestry—to do what? to choose a Select Vestry for next year?” (*Hear! hear! and laughter.*)

Mr. Campbell.—“The Select Vestry consists of the Governor General and Members of Council, as well as the Ministers, Church Wardens, and Sidesmen.”

Mr. Young.—“It was then to summons those high authorities on this occasion, that the Pulpit summons in Easter was given out since 1787 to Shepherd's days? Is it not the practice to summons the Select Vestry by circulars from the Clerk? Why were not the personages who are thus cited from the Pulpit called by the usual written notice?” (*Hear! hear!*)

Mr. Campbell.—“Why, because they would not attend; they have other things to do.” (*laughter.*)

Mr. Young.—“But we are not yet informed why the Governor General and Council are not summoned in Church on every occasion of a Vestry Meeting as well as on this occasion of Easter? Why there is any difference in the manner, if the Pulpit summons is a mere thing of course?” (*Hear! hear!*)

Mr. Campbell.—“I don't know why; but that is my opinion, and I have been in the Vestry for a great many years.” (*Laughter and cries of Question!*)

(Some observations were here made by Major Sackville on the Lawyers having given no hopes of success, and that therefore a remedy at law was a vain attempt. A conversation followed, which we could not distinctly collect.)

Mr. PATTLE next rose, and following his Friend Mr. Young, addressed the Meeting as follows:

Gentlemen,—It was not my intention to address this most numerous and most respectable Meeting, and even had I entertained an intention of submitting to you my sentiments, I should have relinquished it, after having heard the subject of consideration, for which we have been convened, explained to you, as it has been, by my intimate Friend, in front of me (Mr. Young) with a degree of eloquence so justly applauded, and illustrated to you in a manner so happily conceived and expressed, and so judiciously and deservedly approved. But, Gentlemen, when I made the determination I have stated, I did not foresee or expect, as has happened in the course of the Speech just made by Captain Lockett, that you might be misled by an imperfect representation of some most important and essential parts of the question under debate.

Before I proceed further, Gentlemen, I feel it is necessary to declare, that I have no intention of imputing wilful misrepresentation to Captain Lockett. I am persuaded there is not amongst us one more honorable or conscientious. The misrepresentation I am about to notice, and which it is very important for you to know, has proceeded, Gentlemen, I am convinced from a defect of recollection. Captain Lockett would never have wilfully read to you two Paragraphs of a Letter from the Government to the Select Vestry, dated in January last, and suited to his purpose, and at the same time have omitted to acquaint you, that the Government had in a subsequent Letter given an explanation of the former Letter, entirely stripping it of all title to the interpretation of it, given to you by him.

Gentlemen—I admit the letter from Government dated in January last, would, if it still was uncontradicted, bear the construction which has been given to it. It would be much in favor of the assertion, persisted in, so perversely persisted in, “that the Government uphold and support the self-electing Vestry in their forcible possession of the Vestry, its records and funds, and their rejection of our worthy friends the Sidesmen.” But, Gentlemen, fortunately for the cause of justice and of reason, for our cause, Gentlemen, I will not hesitate to call it our cause and the cause of the public, since you have already so decidedly and unanimously expressed your approbation of it, I again say, Gentlemen, it is fortunate for our cause, that there is a subsequent letter from the Government, and which the honorable person who spoke last, only from want of recollection omitted to mention to you. This letter, Gentlemen, is dated the 22d April last, and to the best of my recollection, for I quote it from memory, refers specifically to the preceding letter of the 8th January, and is as follows: “as in that case Government did not deem it advisable to go beyond indicating its view of expedience in an anomalous and embarrassed case, the same consideration must prevent authoritative interference.” If this quotation from recollection is erroneous, I request some one of this assembly will correct me from the *Vestrian*, many copies of which are on the table (Here the speaker paused, but as no one objected to the accuracy of his quotation he proceeded.)

Is this, Gentlemen, the language, the Government would use, intending to support either party in this contest? Will any one present venture to assert that this enlightened, this liberal, (*Applause*) this impartial, this just Government, would take any side in this or any other subject of dispute amongst us but the side of Justice? Have the Government told the usurping Vestry they espouse their cause and uphold their possession? Is such an interposition reasonably or justly to be inferred when we have before us, that the Government in the last letter from which we can gather their feeling on the sought for interposition, say, we have merely suggested a measure of expedience and will not authoritatively interfere? Is there any one here so perverse as not to perceive, that the Government were decidedly determined to be neuter? Let me ask you, Gentlemen, why did the Government prefer neutrality to interference in this contest? Was it because it was doubtful of its possessing rightful jurisdiction in the case, or that it was not satisfied sufficiently that the ejected Sidesmen, were as they had represented supported by the popular voice, or was it as the Hon'ble Gentleman who spoke last has told you, that the Government favored the cause of the present select Vestry, (*A general cry of No, No.*)

I believe, Gentlemen, I may venture to assert, you conceive with me in opinion, that to one of the two first mentioned causes may be assigned with the greatest chance of correctness, the determination of the Government. Captain Lockett tells you, that as at the Vestry Meeting of June 1787, (mind, gentlemen, the Vestry Meeting at which the constitution we contend for, was framed) the Governor General presided, that as no Governor General has ever since presided at a Vestry Meeting, and that as the present Government favor the present Select Vestry and discountenance our Friends, the ejected Sidesmen, we are in fact guilty of disrespect to the Government in thus debating on a point decided by such high authority.

Is it that we are to be startled from our purpose? Is it that we are here without sufficient permission, and without previously and adequately having ascertained the will and pleasure of the Government, that we are to be frightened from our irreproachable exertions to ascertain what our fellow Citizens think of our Cause. Does the Honorable Gentleman hope we have so little good sense and so much unreasonable timidity, that such imputations can make us desert our cause?

Do I dream, Gentlemen, when I tell you we have petitioned and obtained the sanction of our Government, for this our Meeting? Will any one, except the Honorable Gentleman who spoke last, tell this most respectable and numerous Assembly, a Government like ours, deserving our warmest devotion, enlightened, liberal, impartial, just, would hesitate to be imperative, if it meant to interfere; (*Loud bursts of applause from all quarters.*) would it temporise when it intended to order? would it give doubtful directions when desiring a prompt and unremonstrating obedience? would it compromise its dignity, and issue equivocal orders, when the proper order should be, you may, or you shall not. (*Great Applause.*)

No! Gentlemen, this Government, so remarkable for its energies and its wisdom under circumstances of real difficulty, had it even disapproved either the conduct of our friends, the ejected Sidesmen, or our desire to meet here and discuss this Question, would at once have told us our purpose was reprehensible and should not be suffered. This mandate, Gentlemen, would not under such circumstances have been delayed an instant, our obedience would have instantly followed, yet even then our Government would have studiously explained to us all the circumstances belonging to our error, and would have pointed out if redress existed, how it was to be obtained. Judging by my own feelings, I am confident there is not a single individual amongst us who is not both able and willing, honestly and conscientiously to declare, that interesting as this debate has become to us all, the slightest intimation competently given and purporting to be from the Government, and expressing a desire that we should disperse, would dissolve this Meeting instantly. We shall never be slow to give the most unequivocal proofs of our loyalty and devotion to our constituted superiors. (*Loud and continued Applause.*) They deserve it from us, and they will learn with dissatisfaction if not indignation, that we have been told we are ungrateful, the only exercising the privilege they have expressly sanctioned.

Gentlemen, I shall next proceed to answer the notice, that the Honorable person Captain Lockett has taken of the General Vestry Meeting on Easter Monday last. He has told you Gentlemen, that with the exception of the present and past years, for twenty years past there has been no election of the Select Vestry, by a General Vestry; but that the former have been annually re-elected by themselves, a system you cannot, Gentlemen, doubt he approves, since he advocates it. I was myself one of those who attended the General election. This meeting was opened by the Chairman, the Reverend Mr. Corrie, who read to us the letter from Government, of the 8th of January last, which you will recollect, Gentlemen, I have stated to you was interpreted by a subsequent letter from Government, (dated in April last) into nothing less or more, than an opinion of expediency.

The Reverend Chairman insisted as stoutly as has the Hon'ble Gentleman who spoke last, that the letter from Government dated in January last amounted to a command, that all future elections for the Select Vestry should be made by the default Select Vestry, and not by the voice of those who might attend the Vestry room to vote. After some desultory discussion, during which to the best of my recollection, the Reverend Mr. Parson differed with the Reverend Chairman and declared the elections were always General elections and by the voices of those who attended and voted, I with the consent of the Reverend Chairman referred this point of usage to Mr. McClintock, observing, that we looked to his long continued experience and impartiality for information. Mr. McClintock, without hesitation solemnly declared, that to the best of his knowledge and experience during the whole time he had served in the Vestry and which expired about five years since, the Select Vestry had always been elected by the suffrages of the General Vestry, which consisted of those who attended and voted; and never by the past Select Vestry, adding, that the Office was now considered more respectable than formerly when very few interested themselves about it.

The Vestry records were then examined and read by Mr. Parson in confirmation of Mr. McClintock's statement, as to general Vestries being convened and held whenever vacancies during the interval of the Easter elections had occurred. The election then followed, and was determined, as far as related to the nomination to be made by the general Vestry by the majority of the votes of the voters present.

(Mr. McClintock here interrupted Mr. Pattle, and asserted he had not declared when referred to, during the Meeting on Easter Monday, that the Elections during his time had always been General Elections, and by the voices of those who attended and voted, on which Mr. Pattle addressed himself to the Chairman, and Messrs. Trant, Trower, Plowden, senior, Plowden junior, Arrow, Law, and others present, and who were at the Vestry Meeting held on last Easter Monday, and solicited they would determine whether what he had stated as having been Mr. McClintock's declaration at that General Vestry, was correct or not. These Gentlemen unanimously confirmed Mr. Pattle's statement, on which Mr. Pattle said, “Does Mr. McClintock mean to contradict me now?” Mr. McClintock answered, “No, Sir,” and was proceeding to mention some notes which had passed between him and Mr. Trevor Plowden, but as it did not appear to the assembly that they could affect the point which had been determined, he was not then (but afterwards) allowed to produce them, and Mr. Pattle resumed his Speech as follows:)

Gentlemen—Captain Lockett, has told you that the Governor General is the head of the Church Establishment, that he has never attended the Vestry since June 1787, (observe Gentlemen the era of the constitution we covet) and that therefore any Vestry Election conducted under the authority of that constitution, was illegal, and required the Governor General's presence to make it legal. Either Captain Lockett has not read the provisions of this constitution, or he has a very confined idea of the ingredients necessary to constitute its legality, he has also excepted to this constitution, that it is not taken from Burn's Justice, and that as there is no parish, there can be no parishioners. Let me tell you, Gentlemen, for his information, (*a laugh.*) (for I am sure none of you need to be so informed) that this constitution states, specifically states, that its provisions are chiefly taken from Burn's Justice, and assigns as the reason for the deviations, that the provisions of the statutes which exist in England, were in some cases unnecessary

and in others inapplicable to the usages of this country. Let me ask you, Gentlemen, what would that venerated and illustrious nobleman whose statue we now look at, say, could he be informed of the objections, the Honorable Speaker who has last sat down has advanced, to the provident, just, impartial, and wise constitution he gave us in 1787; would he believe it possible, that any person could be found to assert, that the present Government did not feel equal respect with ourselves for even, (comparatively speaking with reference to the other signal benefits he rendered) this trifling legacy; still trifling only by such a comparison; for that it is not so in our estimation, this day sufficiently testifies.

Captain Lockett will not allow the payment of Surplice Fees to constitute any right to vote at a General Vestry, he has told you Gentlemen, (tho' the rates have been fixed by the Government, and in consequence of disputes amongst the Clergy, the Government have specifically directed how the Surplice Fees shall be collected, with other directions regarding the duty belonging to them,) that you need not pay Surplice Fees, that the Ceremonies of Christenings and Marriages are performed gratis in the Church. Should he not rather in candour have said, that this indulgence is not refused to Paupers, but that respect for the Clergy, as well as an hereditary and constitutional aversion to a degrading exemption has occasioned, that the Clergy have found none who could afford Surplice Fees, reluctant to pay them or desiring to be excused from them.

Gentlemen, lest there should be one amongst us who like the Honorable person, who spoke last, has so imperfect an idea of what reasonably and properly should and does therefore constitute and give the right to vote at a Calcutta General Vestry Meeting, for the election of a Select Vestry, I will venture my opinion on this subject, assigning my reasons for entertaining it, and leaving it to your sound judgment and impartiality to determine how far it is consistent with the good sense, justice, and reasonable means for inference, belonging to the question. I consider every person has a right to vote, who has paid for pewage, or has contributed by donation to the Vestry Poor Fund, or has paid Surplice Fees for a Marriage, a Christening, or a Funeral; likewise those Protestants, who altho' they have not yet contributed to the Vestry Poor's Fund, would be properly solicited to contribute to it, were it exhausted whether by mal-administration or otherwise, and who therefore as a part of the public interested in its proper administration, have a natural right to see it is properly administered.

Gentlemen, Captain Lockett has also told you, that there is no Vestry, there can be legally no Vestry, as there is no Parish and no Parishioners. It follows if this be true, (and legally speaking that there is no Parish and no Parishioners is very true,) the Funds to so considerable an amount now in the custody of the supposed Vestry, are not Vestry Funds, and should not be so mis-named. Let Captain Lockett call these Funds by what name he chooses, even he must admit, it will not affect the main point, that this money was given by the Public, and is therefore until distributed, always the property of the Public, and unalienable to any other purpose, save that for which the Public gave it. Who then, I will ask, has so natural, so just, or so reasonable a right, to select Trustees to take care of this Property as the Public, from whom it proceeded. Are the Public to be told by three Individuals, "We will be your Trustees, we will hold your money and dispose of it as to us seemeth meet, we will give you no explanation, no documents, except when it suits us; whether you like us or not, we like the trust we have possessed ourselves of, and you have no right to object or to interfere with us. Trust to our impartiality, our good judgment, our method, our integrity. Your affairs were never so managed, as since we resolved to be perpetual and independent of you."

In what does this differ from a faithful description of the irresponsibility claimed by the three persons who ejected the Messrs. Plowdens? Next to the surprise excited by such conduct, is my surprise that the Hon. Gentleman who spoke last has not thought it necessary to devote some portion of his time to prove, that those he advocates, are warranted in withholding the annual publication of their accounts. You will not, Gentlemen, allow your ardour to be damped by the unfavorable and unwarranted interpretation given by Major Sackville, of the opinion offered by counsel in this case. Major Sackville should know, that counsel of eminence do not promise success and for the best reason in the world. What may be the result of the case on which their opinion may have been given, does not rest with them; if I know any thing of the learned counsel whose opinion you have heard read this day, they wish to tell you the question has difficulties and the ultimate issue is not therefore certain; but they do not discourage you from seeking your legal remedy, and in a popular case of this nature they assuredly would discourage you, did they consider the exertion of their talents in your cause could never be attended with the desired success.

Gentlemen, I will not detain you longer, the Resolutions which will be submitted to you, will I am certain meet your approbation; you will find they are as delicate and as considerate to the usurping Self-electing Vestry, as the utmost indulgence could devise, without injustice to the popular cause we maintain. Gentlemen, you will find it will be proposed that we shall, before any other measure is adopted, respectfully and earnestly Petition the Government to render by their interposition all further prosecution of this cause needless. I trust, gentlemen, it will appear to every impartial person, that those who support the side of this question I have taken, have contend solely on public grounds and for public principles, which have always had to our experience, and we hope ever will have, the most fervent support of all those who claim to be British Subjects; and will therefore never be, when legally expressed, obnoxious to a liberal and wise British Government, (applause and cheering.)

Gentlemen, if I may judge from the patience you have bestowed on this address, and the unqualified approbation you have manifested for the cause I have so insufficiently advocated, I anticipate the issue of this day, will be highly gratifying and honorable to us all.

Mr. McCLINTOCK interrupted Mr. Pattle, when he spoke of a letter written by the Messrs. Plowdens to Government, dated the 19th of April 1819, wherein they quoted an opinion, said to have been given by Mr. McCLINTOCK at the Meeting on Easter Monday, and which quotation was afterwards given to the Public, in a letter or paper dated the 20th of June, published in the *Calcutta Journal* on the 29th of that month, and signed by Mr. Pattle, the Chairman, Commodore Hayes, and several others.

Mr. McCLINTOCK contended, that the Statement made to Government, &c. was not correct, in regard to what he said at the Meeting alluded to, and this he had informed Mr. T. Plowden of, in an answer sent to that Gentleman, when he wrote

to him for his signature to the paper in question. Mr. McCLINTOCK read two notes from Mr. T. Plowden, and his answers to them, saying, "he hoped Mr. Plowden would excuse his declining to sign the paper, for fear of being brought into print and further that Mr. P. had not stated quite correctly the opinion given by him at the Vestry Meeting on Easter Monday."

Mr. McCLINTOCK here noticed the great praise which he had observed, bestowed in one of the Newspaper publications, on the conduct of the Reverend Doctor Ward, during the seven years he presided in the Vestry, which he admitted was very just. But he begged leave to state, that the non-publication of the annual Statement first took place during the Doctor's administration, and met with his most hearty approval, and so continued during his stay, and since that time, by his successors, and until now there has been no question of doubt on the subject. Exclusive of the Clerical part of the Select Vestry, there were ten Gentlemen \* who acted with Doctor Ward, from Easter 1809 to his departure for Europe in the beginning of 1816, and three of them, viz. Mr. Morton, Mr. Cruttenden, and Mr. Campbell, are the Gentlemen now so much abused, and attempted to be thus unjustly stigmatised.

Mr. McCLINTOCK resumed his former mention of possessing a note from Mr. T. Plowden, stating that he had fortunately kept it, together with his answer, and had brought them with him, when Mr. T. Plowden desired they might be read. These were read accordingly, as follows:

R. McCLINTOCK, Esq.

My Dear McCLINTOCK,

I send you the paper about which I spoke to you yesterday. My wish is to obtain your signature to it, if you find the statement correct, or of which there can be little doubt, though it does not embrace all the topics discussed at the Easter Meeting.

Of course you will do as you think right, but we call upon you to add your name to the paper, only as an act of common justice to us.

Believe me, sincerely yours,

(Signed)

T. PLOWDEN.

T. C. PLOWDEN, Esq.

My Dear Plowden,

I hope you will excuse my declining to sign a paper which may bring me into print, a thing I abhor. You have not stated quite correctly the opinion I gave at the Vestry Meeting on Easter Monday, for I was only asked as to what the Election had been in my time.

Your's very sincerely,

(Signed)

R. McCLINTOCK.

R. McCLINTOCK, Esq.

My Dear McCLINTOCK,

As you decline to put your signature to the paper we are about to publish, either by agreeing or objecting to the account of what passed in the Vestry Room on Easter Monday, it follows of necessity, that we must at the foot of that paper, mention the reasons you have given for not signing.

The opinion regarding the Election of Church Officers, given by you at the Meeting, could only refer to your time, and no other, for you could not possibly take upon yourself to speak of what was the practice at any other time. I cannot therefore observe any thing incorrect in the statement we have made.

Your's very sincerely,

(Signed)

T. PLOWDEN.

T. PLOWDEN, Esq.

My Dear Plowden,

A man's conversation is even in danger of being *Journalized* now-a-days, therefore, you must excuse my writing any more on Parish business, for fear of the like fate. You may take the answer I sent you as sufficient for your purpose.

Your's sincerely,

June 25, 1819.

R. McCLINTOCK.

Mr. TRANT rose after this, and addressed the Chairman as follows:—

As my name has been mentioned by Captain Lockett, I think it as well to say a few words, and to explain the part which I took at the Meeting on last Easter-Monday.

With reference to what Mr. Campbell has said, (in his conversation with Mr. Young,) I must declare, that although I do not remember the precise terms of the notice, which were read by the Clerk on Easter-Sunday, the impression in my mind was, that it was an invitation for the Meeting of a General Vestry, and accordingly I attended.

I had often considered the subject, and was prepared to join in the election of some new Members of the Select Vestry, if it should appear to be proper.

The business of the Meeting was commenced by the Rev. Mr. Corrie, the Chairman, reading a letter from the Secretary to the Government, which letter has been read here; as soon as I heard this letter, I conceived any further proceedings to be unnecessary. I was preparing to withdraw, when some of the Gentlemen requested me to remain.

* Mr. James Alexander,	1 Year.	Mr. J. H. Fergusson,	2 Years.
Mr. N. B. Edmonstone,	1 Ditto	Mr. James McTaggart,	1 Ditto
Major W. S. Greene,	2 Ditto	Mr. G. Cruttenden,	4 Ditto
Mr. Robert McCLINTOCK,	5 Ditto	Mr. Henry Wood, and	2 Ditto
Mr. William Morton,	6 Ditto	Mr. Robert Campbell,	4 Ditto



There was a good deal of discussion with regard to the meaning of the Secretary's letter, and Vestry Records were referred to, for precedents and information; it seemed to be the opinion of Mr. Parson, that the Government, at the time their Secretary's letter was written, were not in possession of all the information which was necessary to enable them to form a correct judgment. On this I observed, that it would be well to make a reference to the Government and to supply any information which had been wanting.

The opinion of the majority however, was, that this was not necessary, and it was determined to proceed to an election. I declined to take part in this proceeding, as I did not consider it to be proper with reference to the opinion of the Government, as expressed in their Secretary's letter.

There was very little regularity in the debate on Easter-Monday, there were more speakers than hearers, and I cannot undertake to relate all that passed; this reason made me decline to affix my signature to a paper, which was sent to me by the Mr. Plowdens.

I have since ascertained, that the Government were in possession of the fullest information on the Vestry question, and I have found no reason to think, that the course of proceeding pointed out in Mr. Lushington's letter is not in every respect proper; the case is, to use the terms of that letter, an anomalous and embarrassed one, and I can see no objection to the Vestry concerns remaining as they have been for many years, pending the intended reference to the authorities at home.

The two Mr. Plowdens are my intimate Friends, Mr. C. Plowden was my Writers' Building's chum, and I regard him with the affection of a brother; it cannot be supposed, that I have any personal objection to these Gentlemen.

I think the Select Vestry acted injudiciously in taking any part in the election on Easter-Monday. It seems, that on a Meeting after that day, Mr. Corrie, Mr. Parson, and Mr. Crutenden understood, that Mr. Plowdens wished a reference to be made by Mr. Corrie to Mr. Lushington, in order to ascertain the intention of the Government, and that they expressed their disposition to retire if Mr. Lushington's explanation should be what it proved to be. The Mr. Plowdens assert, that their intentions were not rightly comprehended by the other three Gentlemen.

Those who know the parties, will not for a moment believe, that either has deliberately asserted what is untrue, they are therefore fairly at issue on this point, and there appears to me to be nothing but an honest difference of opinion between them. I was sorry to observe, that the discussion had become warm.

All those Gentlemen are of the most respectable characters. I have the pleasure of being well acquainted with Mr. Corrie, the Senior Chaplain, and I must say, that I believe a more pious, meek, and benevolent Christian Minister does not exist, I know how much he has been pained by the whole proceeding, and that nothing but a sense of duty could have induced him to pursue the line of conduct which he has chosen.

I would entreat that no Resolution be passed by this Assembly, so framed as to lead the Indian and British public to suppose, that the two Ministers of St. John's Church, and the Laymen associated with them in the transaction which forms the subject of deliberation this day, have been actuated by any bad motive.

Mr. Trant subsequently observed, that he was as much a friend to an open election, and responsibility, in such cases, as any man, but having satisfied himself, that the Government had every degree of information on this question, and having taken the opinion of their Advocate General, he was quite content to await the decision of the question in the manner proposed by the Governor General in Council.

Mr. DAMPIER followed, and in addressing himself to the Meeting, spoke in nearly the following words:

Mr. Chairman—It must appear presumption in me to bring myself forward on an occasion like this, owing to my having so lately arrived in this country and my extreme youth. I have, however, been induced, more by the solicitation of my friends, than by my own inclination, to offer you my sentiments upon this interesting subject.

The first and principal point for discussion appears to me to be "Whether the violent ejection of the Sidesmen by those terming themselves the Select Vestry can be, taking it in its best light, justified." The sense of this Meeting is decidedly, that it cannot; and in that point I most heartily and decidedly concur with them. One Gentleman (Captain Lockett) I believe, has made a remark, that to form a Select Vestry, the Governor General with the Council must be present. Now I would ask him (as he advocates the cause of the Vestry) whether when the Messrs. Plowden were ejected the Governor General and Council were present? and if they were not, by what authority and by what right did this violent expulsion take place? Another remark which I have heard is, "that those regulations of 1787 which we claim as our Charter, cannot be considered as at all binding, inasmuch as they were not confirmed by a General Vestry. Now by this they acknowledge that right for which we are now contending, and I can hardly imagine them bold enough to endeavour to do away with that authority, which in their endeavour to defend their conduct they have once allowed. But even granting with them that these rules of 1787, are null and void, we may still safely ask them, by what authority and upon what grounds are you now acting as, and calling yourself the Select Vestry? If you do away with these, you must do away with your own authority, as it must be palpably evident to every person that your very existence as a Select Vestry, depends upon

these regulations, and it is impossible that while you allow that part of the rules which established your authority, you are to consider as nothing, those regulations by which the Messrs. Plowden claim their situations as Sidesmen.

The Gentleman to whom I before alluded (Captain Lockett), has observed, that St. John's being a Cathedral Church, all the rights and privileges are centered in the Bishop. How comes it then that the Select Vestry have usurped that power, and still continue to maintain their right to that authority which belongs (according to Captain Lockett's statement) to the episcopal dignity? and why is it not immediately surrendered into the hands of that Right Reverend person who at present exercises the functions of Bishop of Calcutta? (Here Captain Lockett interrupted Mr. Dampier, but was called to order by the Chair.) I understand also that Gentleman to have endeavoured to persuade the persons assembled, that they were acting at issue with Government. (No no, from Captain Lockett) If I have mistaken the meaning of the Gentleman's words, I am sorry for it; but I appeal to this assembly whether this was not the most obvious sense of his words (*Generality of Yes, yes!*)

I shall now proceed to take notice of a part of the printed Correspondence, I mean that part of Mr. Parson's Letter, in which he says, "I am almost certain that although Government thought they were confirming an old rule, they were in fact making a new one."

I am really at a loss to reconcile so singular a declaration, repeated too, as I understand it has been, on many subsequent occasions by that Reverend person, with the line of conduct which he and his friends and followers have observed during these discussions. To a plain understanding, I confess, I think it must appear the most straight forward cause, for a man who thinks great wrong in its construction of the Law, to point out respectfully to that authority, the mistake into which it seems prone to fall. Instead of this plain-dealing, the Reverend author of the Letter I have alluded to, meekly submits to the erroneous decree of Government, confirming him and his friend in powers to which he confesses they had no right, and in point of fact, lends all his influence and talents to a cause of which he professes to disapprove. (*Hear, hear, hear*) To reconcile these things, is a task beyond my humble abilities and inexperience as yet, of men and manners. (*Hear, hear.*)

After the eloquent Speech which we have heard from Mr. Wynch, I cannot be vain enough to suppose that any words of mine can stimulate you to greater exertions. But I implore you as Englishmen, not tamely and quietly to give over that right with which you were born, and of which the meanest hind in England boasts himself master. I conjure you as men subject to all the feelings of humanity, to consider that whilst this oligarchy continues, many poor wretches are deprived of your bounty, owing to your distrust of those who have now the superintendence of the Public Charities, and I charge you as British Inhabitants of India not to suffer the wisdom of the measures of that great man Lord Cornwallis (to whom we owe so much) to be thus impeached, and our Charter granted by him to be thus trampled upon.

It has been observed by some Gentlemen, that it is beneath the dignity of a Public Meeting like this to take any notice of what may have appeared in the publications of the day, but I feel myself bound to differ in opinion from them. The gross calumnies which have appeared in the Paper calling itself the Government Gazette, but fortunately having the sanction of Government only in the small portion of it which is given under the official signatures of its public Servants, endeavouring to identify us with the Jacobins and Revolutionists of former days, ought not, I think to be passed over in silence. It was not an accusation against an individual or against a set of men purposely deluded by their superiors, and unknowing how to judge for themselves; but it was an accusation against a society of well informed and well educated English Gentlemen, most of them, indeed I may say all of them, holding situations under Government, and who were acting in support of those principles which every Englishman boasts as the foundation of his happiness and as the basis of his liberty, and I conceive that the attempt to influence and bias the public mind by such gross misrepresentations as these, ought to be treated as an insult to that society which it endeavoured to calumniate.

Gentlemen—I have taken up too great a portion of your valuable time, and thank you for the indulgence with which you have listened to me, (*applause*).

Major SACKVILLE now rose, and following Mr. Dampier, addressed himself to the Meeting as follows:

Gentlemen,—I have a few observations to make before the resolutions are put to the vote, for I think it a matter of some importance, that we should weigh and understand the position we hold in this unprecedented case, before we proceed to resolutions which we may want the power to enforce.

We meet here, Gentlemen, I believe, all of us unanimous as to the principle which we wish to see established—"responsibility of trust"—some of us may certainly differ as to the mode of establishing that principle as connected with the present Vestry; but we shall all agree, that in a mutual compact between Agent and Constituent, whether between one individual and another or between the public and a select body, that it is an absurdity, quite ridiculous, to suppose, that the latter are neither amenable to the scrutiny nor subject to the control and instructions of the former, for who would gratuitously risk his cash or property in aid of charity or for any other purpose without the indispensable pledge of responsibility? allowing therefore, that the principle is not only excellent in itself, but universal in its application to all transactions between man and man; I come to the right, the legal right of claiming that principle in regard to those Funds which are confessedly the joint contributions of the Indian public,

The learned in the law have in my mind virtually expressed an opinion, tantamount to a total disqualification on our part in the abstract point of legal right. The opinion of the learned counsel as quoted by Mr. Plowdens, is, that they see no prospect of success in an appeal to the Supreme Court (here Mr. Plowdens observed, that no such term had been expressed in the Document he had read) I readily correct myself, I believe the term used "no promise of success" which in my humble opinion has equal force and weight with the other, and at all events this little promise affords us but a poor prospect (however sanguine we may be), in any litigation we may think proper to institute in behalf of those claims in a court of justice; we have in fact no legal grounds on which to rest our appeal in the matter before us. The learned in the law tell us "you may try the question and we will exert our eloquence and abilities in your cause," but they hold themselves in reserve and say "we can promise no success" and this again they declare after the maturest deliberation, and in a question, which in great Britain requires no sophistry, and which is in regard to Vestry rights there, a subject equally simple and well defined. I argue therefore, that as there is no parish, we can form no corporate body of parishioners, and consequently that we have no law in the present instance to further our proceedings in a legal manner; I must object therefore to the prosecution of an unavailing attempt, because, Gentlemen, such an issue to our proceedings will only tend to expose us to ridicule, and complete the triumph of the Triumvirate, as some have been pleased to style them (a laugh). Besides, Gentlemen, I see no object whatever in adopting, under existing circumstances, any further proceedings even towards the attainment of that right which we are all so desirous to possess.

(Here the Speaker was interrupted by Mr. Pattie, who asked what right? If the Hon. Speaker means the right of discussion and the right of devising and securing means to wrest what we think our rights from the wrongful and forcible possessors, surely this our meeting shews we are in possession of that right.)

If, as Mr. Pattie observes, the right, which I considered it was the object of this meeting to procure, is already in the hands of the public, I confess myself at a loss even to guess what other object we can have in view. I beg leave to propose therefore. As this meeting can have nothing further to desire that it be dissolved. If this is not agreed to, I repeat again that the object for which this meeting has been convened is to discuss and propose measures which may establish us in that right which at present we do not possess; now adverting to the measures which have long been contemplated and are now in progress, through the wisdom of the Supreme Government.

I beg leave, Gentlemen, to make a motion—(loud laughter). I move "That this meeting, sensible of the liberal interest felt and expressed by the Government on the part of the Indian public, as it affects the Constitution of a Calcutta Vestry and the appropriation of Funds, entrusted by the public to the party so denominated, have resolved to stay further proceedings on the subject, until the result of a reference which we understand has been made. (An universal cry of no! no! We are promised that it will be made, but it has not been made yet) by the Supreme Government to the higher authorities in Great Britain, towards the attainment of the legal qualifications in view, has been ascertained."

This motion was seconded by Captain LAMB, and an amendment was moved by Mr. JAMESON in the following words:

Mr. Chairman, I beg leave to suggest the following amendment to the Resolution proposed by Major Sackville.

"That this Meeting, under the conviction that the Constitution of 1787, however admirable in principle, is defective in several material points, relative to the manner of forming Meetings, and the requisites to the due election of part of the lay Members; and on the ground of that Constitution having in point of fact long fallen into disuse; without questioning the legality of the election of the Messrs. Plowdens, the ejected Sidesmen; do entirely concur with Government in the expediency of referring this anomalous and embarrassed case for adjudication to the superior authorities in England; that placing perfect reliance on the impartiality and just views of Government, they nevertheless think it due to themselves, to transmit through the Most Noble the Governor General in Council, a respectful Petition to the Honorable Court of Directors, expressive of the general wish of the Inhabitants of Calcutta, that the privilege of election be thrown open, and a new Vestry Constitution be enacted in lieu of that of 1787, containing its excellent provisions without its ambiguities."

Should this amendment be carried; it is my intention to move further, that a Committee be appointed to draw up the Petition and that this Meeting be immediately thereafter dissolved.

This amendment was supported by a few voices, but when put, was lost by an immense majority.

Major Sackville protested against personal concerns being mixed with Resolutions, and opposed them accordingly.

The last Speaker was here instructed by both Col. Young and Mr. Pattie that there was a wide difference and distinction made on this occasion between the public and private conduct of the Usurping Vestry. That those men were only censured for their public conduct, and it must therefore have surprised all present, that Maj. Sackville should be so inconsistent as to make an objection to the Resolutions, which was either contradicted by those Resolutions, or at variance with the tenor of the commencement of his speech.

Captain LOCKETT said, that he intended to move a similar Resolution which he immediately drew up and handed to the Chairman.

"That as it appears from Mr. Secretary Lushington's letter of 22d April last, that it is the intention of the Government to bring the subject of Vestry discussions under the consideration of the superior authorities at home, that it appears expedient, that no further proceedings on this head take place until the result of the reference to England, shall have been ascertained."

On a show of hands it appeared, that eight persons only voted for it, and that consequently it was rejected by an immense majority.

Mr. YOUNG begged to be favored with the attention of the Meeting for a few minutes, while he opposed his Honorable Friend's amendments, and the motives to which they had been tacked, and while he stated to them his reasons for so doing. The proposal was fair and promising on the outside, but hollow within, not that he attributes to his Friends the movers and amenders, any notion of taking the Meeting by surprise; but the effect of their procedure would be to express no opinion in behalf of these Gentlemen's exertions, who had done so much in favor of the Inhabitants, and to decide on whose conduct was the primary object of their assembly. (Hear, hear!) If they would but please to delay the naked and meagre Resolution and amendment they had so prematurely proposed, they would find that a Friend of his was about to move a string of progressive Resolutions declaring the facts of the Vestry case, the sense of the Inhabitants on those facts, and the proposed measures of redress. They would find that the primary mode of redress there suggested was that of humbly moving Government to grant relief denied to the prayers of so many Inhabitants. The Government had not, and could by no possibility have any conceivable reasons for refusing compliance with prayers so reasonable, so moderate, as those which asked the restoration of the Rule of 1787. It was right, that the Government, which, perhaps, had been taught to disbelieve the interest the community took in this business should have an opportunity of being undeceived. (Hear, hear) and this should precede any other course for relief. But the case should be distinctly stated, and fairly met, nothing started over or evaded. If therefore it pleased the Meeting to put an immediate negative on his Honorable friend's amendment, (Hear, hear,) he would move, that the Resolutions be brought forward by Mr. Trower who has prepared to move them, and first that they be read consecutively, and without interruption, and then moved *seriatim*, when every Gentleman would have the fullest opportunity to offer his sentiments, and no doubt would be heard with full attention.

Mr. WYNCH then, at the request of Mrs. Trower, in whose hands the Resolutions were, and who was requested to move them, read them consecutively in an audible voice, as follows:

**First.—Resolved.** That the Church Constitution made public in 1787 in the Government Gazette, and professing to emanate from the collective wisdom of that great man Lord Cornwallis, and of several of the chief Functionaries of Government joined in a Select Vestry with the Chaplains, appears to this Meeting to contain provisions for the administration of the Church affairs, and for the management of the Revenues and Poor Funds, in themselves most just, reasonable, and prudent, equally honorable to all parties concerned, whether we regard the prudence of those who devised such provisions, the liberality of the high authority which conferred the rights and privileges contained in that Charter, or the characters of the Inhabitants of this City, who in that comparatively early period of our annals, were deemed worthy of holding, and capable of rightly exercising, the powers granted to them as a Select Vestry.

**Second.—Resolved.** That the Instrument thus solemnly promulgated to the Community under the undoubted sanction of the Government, as represented by its Chief, and in its official Gazette, has never been abrogated or altered in any of its essential features or provisions, by any act equally authentic, formal, and authoritative, or by any public act at all to the knowledge of the Community; consequently that the Constitution aforesaid, declared to rest upon the common consent of the Inhabitants, and possessing in the highest degree the general approbation and favor of us all, is conceived by this Meeting to be still in full force and vigour.

**Third.—Resolved.** That whether from the confidence in their Delegates, the Select Vestry, whose personal characters in a small society were naturally well known, or whether from indolence or constant occupation in business on the part of the Inhabitant Electors, it has happened that the Annual Election Meetings, though duly summoned every Easter since 1787, have been scantily attended by the Inhabitants, and frequently of late years have been attended by none except the Actual Members of the Old Select Vestry, on whom, in their capacity of Electors, and in the absence of other candidates, the duty of electing the New Vestry, has legally devolved on such occasions, and who, in the absence of other Candidates, have necessarily re-elected the same individuals to the offices of Church Wardens, and Sidesmen.

**Fourth.—Resolved.** That within the last few years, the relaxation of salutary vigilance on the part of the Electors as above described, appears to have produced the natural effect of a corresponding laxity in the Select Vestry, and an indifference to the opinion of the constituent body, manifested in the manner of discharging their functions, and more particularly by their having ventured to discontinue the accustomed annual publication of their accounts in the Government Gazette, without the authority of the General Vestry, and even without the public allegation of any due and sufficient reasons for this extraordinary failure in one of the most essential branches of their duty.



**Fifth.**—Resolved. That suspicions having been thus awakened from these and other indications, not only that carelessness pervaded the administration and accounts of the Select Vestry, but also that they made light of their responsibility to the General Vestry, and even inclined to question its controlling and constituent authority, certain public spirited individuals determined two years ago to assert the privileges conferred on the Inhabitants in 1787, and were successfully resisted by the Select Vestry, who denied the elective right of the Inhabitants; and by their representations to government appear to have persuaded that high and respected authority to abstain from interfering authoritatively in behalf of the Electors under an impression, that the Select Vestry alone possessed the right of election to office.

**Sixth.**—Resolved. That in the present year the attempt was renewed with better success, the General Vestry having by a considerable majority re-elected a Churchwarden on their own behalf, and having chosen two new Sidesmen, in virtue of their ancient franchises, which the same great majority resolved, were nowise affected or impaired by certain paragraphs of a Letter to the Old Vestry, produced as a justification of their right to disfranchise the Inhabitants, and re elect themselves, but which, when justly interpreted, were considered by the Meeting to be a mere acknowledgment of any Vestry *de facto* for the convenience of carrying on the public business and trusts, waving an interference in the question of right and suggesting a reference to higher authority.

**Seventh.**—Resolved. That on the first meeting for the discharge of ordinary business after Easter, the Select Vestry thus duly chosen took upon themselves to revive the discussion on the great question of their constituents (the General Vestry's) competency to elect them to the offices which they were then actually exercising in virtue of that competency, and in failure of which they could not have any legal existence as a Select Vestry at all, in as much as no election whatever had taken place on the prescribed day (Easter Monday), save and except that election by the Inhabitants which they affected to question.

**Eighth.**—Resolved. That notwithstanding this manifest incompetency of the constituted body to question the Power of its Constituents. The Select Vestry on the strength of private and wholly irregular communications with the individual employed by Government to write the Letter regarding the former years election, proceeded by a majority of three against two to declare the election of the Inhabitants null and void, ejected the two dissentient Sidesmen, declared themselves the lawful Select Vestry and recalled to their seats the two Sidesmen of the year before who had been rejected by the Inhabitants at the General Vestry Election.

**Ninth.**—Resolved. That the ejected Sidesmen having in vain solicited the interposition of Government, who again and in more express terms declined any authoritative interference on the point of right, and having fruitlessly appealed to the persons calling themselves the lawful Select Vestry who have refused to notice their applications to have or to call a General Vestry summoned to decide between them, have called together their Special Meeting of the Inhabitants' Electors with the sanction of Government, for the avowed purpose of laying before us the opinion of Counsel and concerting measures to assert and vindicate the Franchises of the Inhabitants thus wrested from us by the usurpation of our Constituted representatives in the Select Vestry.

**Tenth.**—Resolved. That this Meeting considers the two Sidesmen Mr. R. C. Plowden and Mr. Trevor Plowden entitled to its fullest approbation and cordial thanks for their zealous, able and most disinterested exertions in behalf of our common Rights and Privileges, and hereby offers those Gentlemen its thanks and approbation accordingly.

**Eleventh.**—Resolved. That this Meeting considers the persons now calling themselves the Select Vestry, and in actual and forcible possession of the Records, Powers, &c. appertaining to the Offices of Select Vestrymen, to have no good and lawful title or right so to style themselves or to act in that corporate and conjoint capacity, and that we will use our most strenuous endeavours to oust them from their pretended functions, and to recover the Ancient Rights of Election and controul, to the General Vestry which has thus unjustly been deprived of those rights.

**Twelfth.**—Resolved. That we the inhabitants now present, together with such persons as have been prevented from attending but concur in opinion, do join in a respectful petition to the Supreme Government, which shall be drawn up, presented by our Committee and our Chairman, and after narrating our past proceedings and detailing these our Resolutions, shall confine itself to the simple object of earnestly entreating that high authority to re-establish by its power, the constitution of 1787, precisely as it stands recorded, either as a permanent rule and ordinance or as a temporary measure pending any reference to authorities in England.

**Thirteenth.**—Resolved. That this Meeting cannot for a moment allow itself to question the beneficent and liberal views of the Government, nor its readiness to interpose its mediation and authority (to which even the pretended Vestry loudly profess their willing implicit deference) in establishing either in the shape of an old Charter revived or a new Charter granted, the just and salutary principles laid down in that admirable Vestry Constitution of 1787, beyond the enforcement of which our utmost desires are not extended, and that we are well persuaded the Supreme Government of British India will never hesitate, to act on those wholesome and equitable principles grounded on the undeniable maxim, that all men holding public trusts and administering Revenues or Funds for the general good should be held strictly and truly responsible to their Constituents, That we are confident of Government's acquiescing in the expediency of annual

Elections by the General Vestry; of enforcing the Church Warden's and Sidesmen's oaths; and the former yearly rendering of their accounts on oath; of rendering the prosecution of delinquent officers effectual; of compelling the publication of accounts; and of providing for occasional Meetings of the General Vestry on formal requisitions signed by a given number of Electors.

**Fourteenth.**—Resolved. That if the Government for reasons unknown to us, should decline to grant or restore the system of 1787, so much coveted by the inhabitants and professedly admired and approved by the individuals of the usurping party, we will use every endeavour to obtain redress from the laws of the land, that for this laudable object we will in the first instance support the Sidesmen in their endeavours to gain their restoration to office, by such proceedings at Law or in Equity, as shall appear advisable to them and their counsel, with the approbation of a Committee of our own body to be named in aid of their proceedings and that we will ourselves personally contribute and endeavour to obtain the contributions, of every independent inhabitant towards defraying such Law charges, as our Committee shall recommend and approve.

**Fifteenth.**—Resolved. That if contrary to all just expectation we should ultimately, fail in these reasonable and moderate views, through the improbable refusal of the Government to attend to our solicitations or the incompetence of the strong arm of the law to afford redress, we will subscribe our names and invite the signatures of all our Fellow Citizens to humble petitions, drawn up by our Committee to the King in Council or either, or both Houses of Parliament, as the case may be, beseeching either, or all those High Authorities to extend relief to us in the matters above set forth and that in the event of such humble petition or petitions being determined upon, that to the King and Council, be transmitted by our Committee through the Supreme Government, and the Honorable the Court of Directors to the President of the Board of Controul, to be by him laid before the King in Council, and that any petition to the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, or Commons Houses of Parliament shall be transmitted through such Members of those Houses as the Committee may think will aid our views.

**Sixteenth.**—Resolved. That the following Gentlemen be elected a Committee, for the purpose of carrying into effect, all or any of these Resolutions.

Commodore Hayes, Chairman,

Messrs. Pattle,	Messrs. Forbes	Messrs. Buckingham,
Palmer,	R. C. Plowden,	Dampier,
Trower,	T. Plowden,	Compton,
Trant,	Wynch,	Siddons,

At the motion of Mr. Pattle, seconded by Mr. R. C. Plowden, and carried *unanimously*. Mr. James Young was added to the above Committee.

**Seventeenth.**—Resolved. That this Committee considers it right and just not to close these Proceedings without recording this Resolution, expressly and explicitly disclaiming any intention of imputing corrupt, dishonest, or sordid motives or conduct, to all or any of the persons now claiming to be the Select Vestry of St. John's, whether in their corporate or individual capacities; the objects of this Meeting being confined to the assertion and recovery of old and acknowledged rights, which we conceive to have been wrongfully wrested from us, the Inhabitants of Calcutta, by our own appointed servants, whose wish to make themselves wholly independent of their constituents, we ascribe to impulses that do not necessarily affect our respect for the moral and personal character of those individuals.

[Thus far the Resolutions were read consecutively for the purpose of their being distinctly understood. Mr. Wynch being requested to go thro' them again, separately, they were read aloud, moved by Mr. Trower, and seconded by Mr. Young, and the following were the results on the reading of each, as far as we remember.]

On the first resolution being read and seconded, a Young Gentleman on the right hand of the Chairman, whose name we cannot learn, rose, and with great warmth insisted on it that the Resolutions, as they had been read as a whole should be argued as such, and contended that we should come to a right understanding on the last Resolution, before they voted on the first (*great laughter*.) The Young Gentleman here said, that only one side was heard, that he had a right to give his opinion at length, and that as the popular party as they were called, had brought all their Friends with them, while the accused seemed to have none, he insisted on being heard out. Mr. Young here rose and observed that it was the wish of the Meeting that every body should be heard (*Loud cries of hear him, hear him*.)

When silence was restored, and the attention of the whole Assembly on the stretch to hear the defence of the Old Vestry, which promised, from the determined tone and animated manner of the Young Advocate, to be full and complete, he exclaimed—"Now Gentlemen, I have done"—and sat down amidst peals of laughter, notwithstanding the general disappointment.

[Thus far our report, from memory, and the corroborating testimony of several present. As the Speaker however, has himself communicated his sentiments in writing, and as these differ considerably from our own, we think it justice to give them in his own words, as follows:]

Mr. DARWALL was anxious that his name should not have appeared at all in this debate, and therefore did not comply with the request of the Editor in yesterday's Paper. The pitiful ambition of having his sentiments recorded was not the motive that induced him to offer himself to public notice, but an inability to hear unmerited censures passed without opposi-

tion upon upright and honorable men, rather however, than suffer the sentiments which he did express to be misconceived or mistaken, he will shortly relate what he then said.

In support of an objection made by Mr. Forbes to the Fifth Resolution, (I believe) declaring that in consequence of the laxity of the Inhabitants in attending at the General Meeting on Easter Mondays, the Select Vestry had relaxed in the discharge of their duties, by neglecting to publish their accounts pursuant to the Regulation of 1787, I stated that from the tenor of the last Resolution it appeared to me that by allowing that part of the one under discussion expressive of censure, to remain, a glaring inconsistency in the proceedings of the present day, would be recorded; as the last Resolution was intended to prevent any imputation of misconduct being attributed to the Members of the Select Vestry and that it therefore, ought to be erased.

Mr. Young, here said, "When the last Resolution is read, you will have an opportunity of opposing or supporting it, and till then it is not before the Meeting," or something to that effect. I stated that he, who had drawn them up had declared, when the resolutions were first read, that they were consecutive, and so connected with each other, that the first could not be understood and with propriety passed until the last had been heard; and that I therefore thought it sufficiently before the Meeting to enable me to observe upon it now, as far as the subject matter of it was connected with the resolution then under consideration. (*Cry of Question from Mr. Pattle.*)

I requested that I might be allowed a similar indulgence with the Friends of the opposite party, who were numerous, and had been heard with patience.

Mr. T. Plowden called to order, alledging, that I cast unjust imputations on the Meeting.

I explained, "that my intentions were most expressly the reverse, I must have been misunderstood, I certainly intended to cast no imputations whatever on the Meeting."

After this interruption had subsided, the First Resolution being moved by Mr. Trower, and seconded by Mr. Young, was put to the vote in its original form, and carried by an immense majority.

The Second and Third Resolutions were regularly moved, seconded, and put to the vote in the same way, and carried almost unanimously.

On the Fourth Resolution being read, Mr. GORDON FORBES observed, that however he might approve the principle of the Constitution of the Vestry as established in 1787, in the open election and responsibility of the Members, he deprecated any thing bearing the semblance of reflection on the characters of the gentlemen composing the Vestry. He entreated that gentlemen would not, in their anxiety to do what they considered justice to others, and to support what they regarded as their rights, forget what was due to those highly respectable characters. He would oppose every Resolution intended to convey censure on those to whom, he thought the public greatly indebted for their disinterested services in what would seem to be a most unthankful office. Neither would he be party to any measure which implied mistrust of those whom he believed to have conscientiously discharged the duties they had undertaken.

He proposed that all expressions of such tendency be expunged from the proposed Resolutions.

Mr. ROBERT CAMPBELL followed here, and said he perfectly accorded with the previous Speaker, as to the impropriety of passing any censures on the Old Vestry. (*Some one here exclaimed you are yourself one of the party included, and of course do not wish it.—General and continued laughter.*)

Mr. JAMES BARWELL spoke also in opposition to the passing of any Resolutions which could possibly involve censure on the Old Vestry, as he conceived none was due. (*A person here asked—If all the conduct of the Vestry has been quite what it should be, and nothing is wrong, pray why has this Settlement, and nearly all India, been kept in a state of ferment by the public press, the Government appealed to, and the Authorities at home talked of as a last resource? Indeed, if all is as it should have been, why has the Government given us permission to meet, and for what purpose are we assembled here to-day? To all which questions no answer was given.*)

The Fourth Resolution being still under consideration, Captain GALLOWAY stated, that in proposing the amendment he had suggested, (viz. to petition the Superior Authorities to grant to the Vestry of St. John's, a Constitution founded in principle on the Regulations of the Select Vestry, of the 28th June, 1787.) part of his object was to get rid of a long list of Resolutions which they had heard read, from almost all of which he must express his dissent; but from none more than from the one under discussion which had for its object to censure the conduct of the Vestry. To say they had been found lax in the discharge of their duty, was, in his estimation, a severe censure, which he conscientiously believed was most unmerited, and he was certain on the present occasion would be most unjustly inflicted, because it had been declared at this Meeting, that not one Gentleman (I think not one) had availed himself of the invitation published by the Vestry, to inspect their proceedings and accounts.

The Vestry had not lately, indeed published those accounts in the Gazette, because they thought it better to lay out the cost of such publication in feeding the poor, but their Books had been open to all. They had invariably exhibited an Annual Account of their Receipts and Disbursement, in the only places, known by the Law of England, for such exhibition,—"the Church Porch, during a month at Christmas, and in the Vestry Room during the rest of the year."—There is no Gazette in England for the accounts of Vestries.

But let me ask, said he, with what consistency Gentlemen can call upon us to vote a censure of any kind, however modified, upon the Vestry, where a Meeting of the Inhabitants of Calcutta, in General Vestry, at which the Messrs. Plowden themselves, and many of the Gentlemen on the other side, were present, on Easter Monday last, passed, officially, upon the conduct of the Gentlemen we are now called upon to censure, their unanimous applause? (*Hear hear!*) Permit me Sir to read from the Records of that Meeting this important document.

"The Meeting wish, further, to express their unanimous thanks to the old Vestry, together with their entire satisfaction in the official conduct of those Gentlemen." (*Hear hear!*)

Mr. PATTLE, rose as he said, to explain the above vote of thanks, to which, however Capt. G. objected, stating that he submitted that no such explanation, or any qualification whatsoever, could be received in the face of a regular and authentic written document.

It had been said by a Gentleman (Mr. Young) "that the censure was not, he thought, severe, that it was also a censure upon ourselves for neglecting to call for the publication of their accounts, and that it went more against the principle, and system, than the men; who were allowed, by all, to be most worthy individuals." But he (Capt. G.) did not admit this mode of reasoning; that censuring ourselves would not relieve the Vestry; and that he was at a loss to conceive how they could, in such a case, separate the individual from their censure of his conduct.

Mr. YOUNG—Mr. Chairman, I have a great respect for the character and talents of the several Gentlemen, who have now opposed this Resolution, and have moved an amendment on it, putting an extinguisher in fact on all that has been carried, and all that we of the Independent Party propose to do. One of them indeed I respect so much, that I am quite fearful of his carrying away the feelings of the Meeting, by the fairness and seeming impartiality of his proposal, as well as by the earnestness of his deprecations against personal censure. But the greater the danger of his running away with us, the more necessary it becomes that we stoutly exert ourselves to meet him in the front of the battle, and fight him on his own ground. (*Hear.*)

Gentlemen, I am not afraid to encounter this worthy antagonist, because I feel that we are strong in our cause, while his course is timid, vacillating, and will not bear scrutiny. Let us not conceal from each other and the Public, what we really do each of us mean; we by our Resolution, he by his amendment. It is Mr. Forbes's purpose to shield the Select Vestry from blame; ours to declare them justly amenable to the censure of injured and insulted constituents. I will not conceal from you, I know not why I should, since I am wholly uninterested personally in this controversy, that these Resolutions, tho' moved by a friend, whose place in society gives them a weight I could not confer, are penned by myself. (*Hear, hear, hear, and applause.*)

Gentlemen, I am not ashamed of my offspring. (*Hear, hear.*) I am free to confess, that none of them is a greater favorite than this very Resolution of censure, so disagreeable to our opponents. I stand here ready and willing to debate them inch by inch and defend them against any one, and I will tell you why. (*Hear, hear!*) If we do not carry this, we carry nothing Mr. Forbes, Mr. Trant, Mr. Barwell, Messrs. Lockett, Jameson, Galloway, and every Individual of those who have so stoutly defended the Select Vestry, has distinctly and individually admitted, that we ought to have the Rules of 1787 again. Now these Rules were certainly enacted, and so far as the intention of the Enactors went, were made the law of St. John's. How have we lost this Constitution which all agree in praising, all in wishing to have back again? Has it fallen into desuetude and decay of old age? Was it ever surrendered by us? Who has taken it away? who are in possession of those powers, that all agree it was intended we should have, and should have again, of which the entries in the Vestry Books and Yearly Summons at Easter, are the yet remaining shadow to point out that we once had rights which we now have not?

Others may mince the matter and conceal from us or themselves who were the robbers. I cannot think that this Constitution of 1787 has been ravished from us by our servants, the Select Vestry, and I move that they be censured for their criminality in so doing. (*Hear, hear, hear.*) I use the strong phrase "criminality," because I feel strongly, because I am not used to public speaking and to command choice phrases readily, and because I address a numerous assembly whom I must impress strongly with my feelings and meaning, without weighing expressions too nicely. (*Hear.*) But I distinctly and solemnly disavow all intention of imputing any thing intentionally "criminal" in the legal sense or in a personal view, any thing vile or sordid, to the Select Vestry. Our opponents are putting forth all their powers to save their friends from the expression of their Fellow Citizen's Censure. It is a hopeless case, every man pronounces that blame which they still hope to prevent from being recorded, with a singular inconsistency when we advert to their eulogies on the Rules of 1787. Surely, Mr. Chairman, I need not go over the old and hackneyed ground of assuring the friends of the Select Vestry, and this auditory, that a censure on the political or public character of any functionary does not necessarily imply any moral turpitude, or criminality in his private and personal capacity? (*Hear, hear.*) I am really half-ashamed to go over such plain and well-known ground, but am forced to it by the evident design of our antagonists to deter you from voting this censure, as if it necessarily implied accusation of individual delinquency. Good God, how unreasonable is all this. There are men in the Select Vestry whom I know, and for whom I have the very highest respect and regard; in this we all think alike. (*Hear, hear.*) But does their integrity, their being worthy in private life, change the essence of things? Can any



such piling nonsense make that right which is essentially and eternally wrong? (*Hear, hear.*) I am the advocate or the opponent of measures, not of men, and nothing that relates to the private virtues of individuals, shall ever make me think it right, that public men holding great trusts should not be duly, regularly, constantly, held accountable to their fellow-citizens. (*loud applause.*) These Vestrymen have omitted to publish their accounts for ten years! The fact speaks for itself, Gentlemen, to my mind it matters not why they thus neglected their duty. They did it without our leave, without assigning publicly their reason for the omission; to save a farthing, they hazarded the loss of thousands. (*hear, hear.*) But we are told of their private mildness! What is this, as a set off against official insolence and public superciliousness? They refuse to answer letters, to let the Plowdens have access to records, and at last with a miserable grace are forced to put forth accounts and to behave with civility, and yet we are not to blame them, Gentlemen. Both parties in this dispute cannot be right, and as I for one, am of opinion that our Sidesmen have been most wrongfully treated and that we owe them many obligations for their exertions in our behalf, I at least cannot falter about blaming those whose behaviour in their public capacity has caused so much usurpation and wrong.

But to prove the sincerity of my disclaimer of all private imputations against the Individuals of the Vestry, and to disarm in some measure their friends, I beg that the Resolution may be adverted to, by this Meeting, in treating it at the same time to recollect, that I stand before it as the author of the whole series. (*Hear, hear.*) I appeal to the Meeting if any thing can be stronger than the acquittal which that Resolution implies, and I shall move it myself in turn, that I may add all the force to it, which will be confirmed by such an act arising from him who proposed the question.

I cannot but think the eagerness of the Select Vestry's friends to get rid of this censure, very curiously overstrained; so much so, indeed, that I have really my doubts whether they think a private inculpation is effected by the Resolution. I rather apprehend they make it a point to stand on, because if no blame be recorded, we shall have the less chance of succeeding with Government in overturning their Friends. For what is this terrible censure after all! I am ashamed to hear such a piece of work about such a trifle. The blame is not given to the present set of men or to any particular set of men, but distributed over all the Vestries since 1787, nay, for censures we are the most singular and disinterested beings alive, for we do not only censure others, but we censure whom? ourselves, (*hear, hear.*) we first take blame to ourselves for the supineness, and apathy, and lethargy, of thirty years almost, and we point out as the consequence of this, our own fault, that our servants very naturally found they could do without us and took into their hands the reins which we were wicked or weak enough to abandon, and this is inordinate and unreasonable blame to the Vestry! We accuse them of doing that, which all the records in the memory of Man shew that human nature is sure to do, and always has done, yet people say we are hard and unjust and cruel, and so forth. Let us hear no more of such notions. (*Hear, hear.*)

Gentlemen, I leave it to you, to decide on the fate, of this Resolution. It is mine, I avow it, I glory in it, for I think it is in itself just and true, and I know that in the fate of this Resolution is involved the very heart and essence of this whole controversy, (*applause.*)

The amendments to the fourth Resolution were then separately put to the vote, after being recorded, and obtained each a shew of about eight hands in their favour.

The Fourth Resolution, in its original form, was then seconded, and put to the Vote, and carried by as great a shew of hands as the former ones, accompanied however by loud cheers, drawn forth apparently by the opposition which had been made to it by the advocates of the unpopular party.

The remaining Resolutions were read consecutively, seconded, put to the vote, and carried most triumphantly, until somewhere about the Twelfth Resolution, Mr. GORDON FORBES again rose, and said, "Gentlemen—I hope you do not mean to have it recorded, that these Resolutions which have gone by, without actual opposition, have been passed unanimously."

Mr. PATTLE in reply said, "I beg to assure my Honorable Friend, Mr. Forbes, that due notice will be taken of the opposition made, and it will be particularly specified, that out of an assembly of nearly 400 people, there have been seven or eight dissentient voices, applied to that part of them chiefly, which goes to censure the public conduct of the Old Vestry, (for with their private conduct we have nothing to do) and that if they are ambitious of having their names recorded, as that of a glorious minority, this might also no doubt be done."

When the Seventeenth Resolution came to be read, it was hoped that this at least would be carried unanimously, and Mr. Young expressed himself to that effect; but was replied to, by Mr. Barwell, and Mr. Forbes, that unless they expunged the whole of the former ones, which conveyed any thing like censure on their public conduct, they would not vote on this Resolution of high respect for their private characters. With these two exceptions, as far as we remember, the Resolution was unanimously carried, amidst general applause.

An additional Resolution, the 18th, was now proposed by Mr. Pattle, in the following terms.

*Eighteenth.*—Moved by Mr. Pattle, and seconded by T. C. J. Plowden. That deeply regretting the injury the poor have sustained from the present Select Vestry having lost the confidence of the Public, We, the Inhabitants now assembled, (together with such persons as have been prevented attending, but concur in opinion with us) do, in the event of our further projected Petition to the Government failing of effect, constitute ourselves a Society

for receiving and distributing alms, in like manner and under similar restrictions and responsibilities, as are laid down in the Regulations appointed by Lord Cornwallis in June 1787; and that for this purpose, and to perform this sacred duty, six persons of the Committee, which has been by us chosen, shall be elected from time to time by a majority of the voices of the said Committee, to fulfill the laudable object of this Resolution during the interval that may elapse, until we can obtain either the revival and practice of the abovementioned Constitution of 1787, or of any other Vestry Constitution which may be hereafter legally established.

Mr. H. WHITE spoke in amendment of the last Resolution. He observed, that it would be contrary to the principles unanimously professed on that day, by the Meeting, to suffer the Resolution to stand exactly as it was proposed. We were then contending, he said, for the elective franchise of the Public, in the constitution of the Vestry of St. John's Church; and, in case of the establishment of a Charitable Fund, as that proposed in the last Resolution, it would be improper, if the appointment of persons who should dispose of that Fund, were not vested in the body of the Public, instead of being placed in the hands of a few particular persons. Should the Resolution be carried in the terms in which it was proposed; he feared, we might have to lament, one time or another, our indiscreet surrender of that important right. Mr. White concluded by proposing an amendment, viz. That six distributors of the Charities of the intended Fund, in case of the Establishment of that Fund, should be invariably appointed by the Public, instead of by the Committee."

Mr. Pattle in reply, explained, that he had originally intended to propose that this Election should be by the voice of the Public, and not by the Committee, but that he had relinquished this intention from the difficulty which must attend its execution. Could we, (he asked the persons assembled) with propriety trouble the Government for permission to convene the Inhabitants, thro' the Sheriff, for an Election of this description, and for a purpose declared to be only temporary and probably of very short duration? Besides, it was, he hoped, impossible to suppose the assembly he was addressing would hesitate in giving with the fullest confidence the power of Election by the 16th Resolution to a Committee, whom they had with such decided approbation invested with a much higher and more important trust.

Here a mixed debate took place on the subject; and, Mr. Young having stated, that the Fund proposed in the last Resolution, being conditional, recommended to Mr. White to withdraw his amendment for the present; to which Mr. White assented; and the amendment was accordingly withdrawn, and the original Resolution put, and carried by acclamation.

*Nineteenth.*—Moved by the Chairman, Commodore Hayes, that the Thanks of this Meeting be given to Mr. BUCKINGHAM, for the very disinterested and highly laudable public spirit, he has invariably manifested; during the whole period of the discussion of the Vestry Question, through that Palladium of the Liberty of the British Press in India, the *Calcutta Journal*.

This Resolution for the Vote of Thanks was seconded by Mr. Young, and on being put, was carried *nem-con.*

*Twentieth.*—The Chairman having quitted his seat, Mr. Young, moved, that the thanks of the Meeting be given to COMMODORE HAYES, for his impartial and able conduct in the Chair in the business of that day, seconded by Mr. Pattle, and carried with applause.

*Twenty-first.*—Moved by Mr. Young, and seconded by Mr. Plowden, That the Thanks of this Meeting be given to the HIGH SHERIFF, and the UNDER SHERIFF, for their prompt summons, and ready convening of the Meeting which was voted unanimously.

The Messrs. Plowdens having stated to the Under Sheriff, that the business for which the Meeting had been convened, was now ended. Mr. Brewer dissolved the Meeting accordingly.

\* It is proper to remark on this expression, that the eight dissentient voices had retired, on finding the defeat so complete, but that more than 300 persons still remained in the Assembly.

## Postscript.

As we have no doubt that every line of the foregoing Report, long as it is, will be read, scrutinized, and commented upon, by half the inhabitants of this city, and that while some few, will grant to us, before they rise from their breakfast-tables, the praise of patience, industry, impartiality and fidelity, a hundred voices will be raised in condemnation of all that we have done. One speaker will denounce our truth, and contend that we have usefully omitted what it is impossible we could have forgotten; a second will accuse us of having a fertile and creative fancy, which has given birth to expressions that were never uttered, and a third will curse the reviser of the press for the literal errors which disfigure his speech, and cast a blot upon his oratorical fame. That party to whom cheers and acclamations were as the sounds of defeat and discomfiture, will insist, that we have repeated them too often,—while the body to whom every burst of applause was a shout of victory, will tell us that every line of their speeches should have its peals of approbation—and above all, the few against whom the loud laughing was directed, will no doubt throw aside their hoochahs, and condemn us in toto for daring to mingle so much of levity with so grave and sacred a subject.

To all these we can only say, if they are willing to make the trial of the labour that this task has cost us, they will then be ready to acquit us, and be the first to exclaim to those who should criticize their labours—"Go thou and do likewise."

**Military.**

**General Orders, by the Commander in Chief. Head-quarters, Calcutta, September 23, 1819.**

Serjeant-Major Wm. Edwards, of the Governor General's Body Guard, having been appointed by Government General Orders of the 11th instant, an Overseer in the 5th Institution, is directed to place himself under the orders of the Board of Superintendence, from whom he will receive his instructions.

The appointment, by Brigadier-General Watson, C. B. Commanding Sangur District, of Brevet-Captain Hardy, Quarter Master of the 2d Battalion 28th Regiment Native Infantry, to take charge of the Quarter Master General's and the Guide and Intelligence Departments, from the 4th instant, in consequence of the demise of Lieutenant Strettell, is confirmed.

Lieutenant Lindsay is appointed Acting Adjutant to the Engineer Corps, vice Fitzgerald proceeding to Burdwan on duty.

The Commander in Chief is pleased to make the following Promotions.

1st Battalion 20th Regiment N. I.

Jemadar Badoolah Kawn to be Subadar, from the 10th September 1819, vice Sewdial Sing, deceased.

Havildar Joynarrain Sing to be Jemadar, from the same date, vice Badoolah Kawn, promoted.

J. NICOL, Adj. Genl. of the Army.

**Domestic Occurrences.****BIRTHS.**

At the Mission House, Serampore, on the 27th instant, the Lady of H. A. Williams, Esq. of the Civil Service, of a Daughter.

At Bangalore, on the 2d instant, the Lady of Lieutenant T. Simkins, of H. M. 34th Regiment, of a Daughter.

At Madura, on the 29th of August, the Lady of G. F. Cherry, Esq. of a Daughter.

On the 24th instant, the Lady of J. O. Jore, Esq. of a Son.

**DEATHS.**

At Madras, on the 6th instant, aged 25 years, Elizabeth, Wife of the Reverend Marmaduke Thompson, one of the Presidency Chaplains. The character of this excellent Woman was composed of a rare assemblage of Christian virtues veiled beneath that "meek and quiet spirit, which in the sight of God is of great price." But she desired not, nor needs, the praise of man; the praise she sought was that of God, and her record is with Him on high, while the memorial of her modest worth is engraven on the hearts and affections of her bereaved Family and Friends.

At Tranquebar, on the 28th July, Colonel Strecker, of His Danish Majesty's Service, a most excellent, worthy, good man: leaving a large family to deplore his irreparable loss. His loss will be deservedly regretted by numerous friends, who knew his worth.

At Madras on the 5th instant, Lieutenant Colonel J. C. Stokoe, of the 4th Native Veteran Battalion.

At Mysore on the 20th instant, after a long and lingering illness, Mrs. Mary Manuel, wife of Mr. Thomas Manuel, aged 21 years and 3 months.

On the 4th of June, on board the Oracabessa, on her voyage to the Mauritius, in the 21st year of her age, Caroline, the second Daughter of Thomas Norris, Esq. of Bombay.

The best praise of Woman is the affection of those friends who form the domestic circle in which she lives; and surely never was domestic life more cheered and adorned, than by the virtues, the graces, the accomplishments, of this excellent Young Woman. Of manners the most gentle, of sentiments the most exalted, of an understanding intuitively clear, the elegance which she unconsciously displayed in every word and action, appeared in her, rather the spontaneous production of nature than the result of a finished education. While the artless dignity of her soul, softened by the sweetness, and animated by the gaiety of her temper, gave a charm to her presence, even in the commonest occurrences of life, and spread a uniform sunshine round the circle she adorned; her piety was pure and unaffected, founded on the great truths of Revelation, and so diffusing itself over all her virtues, that they might have been all said to spring from the same sacred principles.

Such was the early combination of virtues, and talents, and graces, that the sun of April saw her in all the bloom of health, youth, and beauty; she was seized about that period with a cough, which was succeeded by some febrile symptoms, under which she gradually sunk, till the members of the faculty pronounced a voyage to sea absolutely necessary, as a last resource.

She embarked on board the Oracabessa on the 16th May, accompanied by her mother and eldest sister; and on the 4th June following, her pure spirit ascended into heaven.

Her remains, beautiful even in death, were carried to the Mauritius, and there interred with the ceremonies of the Church of England.

Farewell, blessed spirit! After life's fitful fever thou sleep'st well. Thou hast left us the consolation that thou wert all goodness, all gentleness, all purity, all truth: and Revelation has taught us that of such is the kingdom of heaven. Sweet and soothing is the remembrance of thy virtues, and when human nature, humbled in the dust, drops the tear of bitterness to think thy grace and beauty should be consigned to so early a tomb, the remembrance of thy virtues softens the bitterness of the tear, and leads us from the contemplation of this perishable world, to the world of glory where the righteous are enthroned.

[Bombay Courier.]

**Shipping Intelligence.****CALCUTTA ARRIVALS.**

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	From Whence	Left
Sept. 29	Governor Petrie	British	W. J. Bresley	Persian Gulph	July 16
28	Milford	British	R. Harwood	Penang	Sept. 3

**CALCUTTA DEPARTURES.**

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	Destination
Sept. 27	Lang	British	J. Clark	London
27	Maister	British	P. Berriman	London

**BOMBAY ARRIVALS.**

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	From Whence	Left
Sept. 3	Derria Beggy	Arab	Abdoo Raimon	Mocha	Aug. 19

**BOMBAY DEPARTURES.**

Date	Names of Vessels	Flags	Commanders	Destination
Aug. 30	Volunteer	British	T. Waterman	Calcutta
31	Loyalty	British	W. Hearn	Liverpool

**Nautical Notices.**

Yesterday arrived in the River the Almorah, Captain Hunter, left England the 27th May, and the Abberton, Captain Percival, left England the 28th May.

The Volunteer, Captain Waterman, from the Persian Gulf and Bombay, which touched at Madras on her way, reports that the ship William Miles, Captain Beadle, had arrived at the latter place, and was soon to sail for Bengal. The Passengers were all well.

The Lord Sidmouth, Captain W. Gunner, for London, and the Sarah Ann, Captain W. Wilson, for the Cape, will sail for their respective destinations in four or five days.

The Packet ship Mary, for England, sailed from Madras on the 5th instant. She was to stop nowhere.

The Rochester, from Madras, is stated to have arrived in the Downs on the 4th of May.

**Passengers.**

Passengers arrived at Calcutta on the Milford.

Lieutenant G. Brown, and 236 Troops, including Women, Children, and Followers, belonging to the Bengal Artillery; Mr. Richard Jaurin, Civil Service Mr. J. Bateman, Free Merchant; Messrs. Meahurn and Ripley, Free Mariners Mr. Aricol Gregorie; Mr. Sankies Aratoon; Cavajee Shapajee, Parsee.

Passengers embarked from Bombay on the Volunteer.

Mrs. Hill; Mr. Michael; Mr. Zorib; Mr. Paul.

On the Helen.

Doctor Mack; Colonel Edwards; Doctor Hutchinson; H. Forbes, Esq. Captain Healy and Son.

On the Loyalty.

Captain McNicol; Lieutenant Lester; Lieutenant Taylor; Mrs. Burns Mr. Horn.

**CURRENT VALUE OF GOVERNMENT SECURITIES.**

BUY	SEPTEMBER 1819.	SELL
0 Rs. 6 As. 1	Six per Cent Loan Promissory Notes.	0 Rs. 10 As

**COURSE OF EXCHANGE.**

REMIT	CALCUTTA	[DRAW
2s. 6d.	On London, at 6 Months' sight, per Sicca Rupee,	2s. 7d.
	On Bombay, 30 Days' sight, per 100 Bo. Rs. Sa. Rs.	
	On Madras, 30 Days' sight, per 100 St. Pag. Sa. Rs.	

**PRICE OF BULLION.**

Spanish Dollars,	..	Sicca Rupees 205 to 205-8	..	per 100
Zechins,	..	ditto	..	ditto
Venetians,	..	ditto	..	ditto
German Crowns,	..	ditto	..	ditto
Star Pagodas,	..	ditto	..	ditto

**BANK OF BENGAL RATES.**

Discount on Private Bills,	..	7 per Cent
Discount on Government Bills of Exchange,	..	6 ditto
Discount on Government Salary Bills,	..	6 ditto
Interest on Loans on Deposit,	..	6 ditto

Printed at the Union Press, in Garstin's Buildings, near the Bankshall and the Exchange.



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View of the Great Syrian Mosque  
at Constantinople. From the East.

